

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 198

Sponsor:

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1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 5, by inserting after "Screening"
2 and Early Literacy Intervention

3 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 12 through 14; pages 2 through 4,
4 lines 1 through 30; page 5, lines 1 through 5, by striking out
5 all of said lines on said pages and inserting

6 ARTICLE XVII-C

7 DYSLEXIA AND EARLY LITERACY INTERVENTION PILOT PROGRAM

8 Section 1701-C. Short title of article.

9 This article shall be known and may be cited as the Dyslexia
10 and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program Law.

11 Section 1702-C. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this article
13 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Department." The Department of Education of the
16 Commonwealth.

17 "Dyslexia." A condition that is characterized by difficulty
18 with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling
19 and decoding abilities, which characteristics typically result
20 from a deficit in one or more processes related to the
21 phonological component of language, that is often unexpected in
22 relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of
23 effective classroom instruction and that may result in problems
24 in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that may
25 impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. The
26 term shall apply only for purposes of the pilot program.

27 "Intensive intervention." Explicit, multisensory, synthetic
28 phonics instruction and a structured language program delivered
29 with fidelity by a trained interventionist. The term shall apply
30 only for purposes of the pilot program.

31 "Pilot program." The Dyslexia and Early Literacy
32 Intervention Pilot Program established under this article.

33 Section 1703-C. Establishment.

34 (a) Pilot program.--The department shall establish a
35 Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program to
36 provide evidence-based early screening and multitier support

1 systems, using evidence-based intervention services for students
2 with potential risk factors for early reading deficiencies and
3 dyslexia, such as low phonemic awareness, low letter and symbol
4 naming and inability to remember sequences.

5 (b) Program operation.--The pilot program shall operate for
6 three full school years, beginning with the school year that
7 begins at least six months after the effective date of this
8 article.

9 (c) Eligibility.--The department shall select at least three
10 school districts to participate in the pilot program. To be
11 eligible for the pilot program:

12 (1) A school district must enroll 3,000 to 15,000
13 students and provide full-day kindergarten.

14 (2) Three months after the effective date of this
15 section, the school district must submit a proposal to the
16 department that identifies how it will meet the guidelines of
17 the pilot program's:

18 (i) evidence-based core reading program;

19 (ii) evidence-based method of screening all
20 kindergarten students;

21 (iii) evidence-based intervention programs; and

22 (iv) a methodology for evaluating the effects of the
23 program on the students' identified risk factors.

24 Section 1704-C. Department responsibilities.

25 (a) Funds.--The department shall apply for Federal, private
26 and other non-State funds and shall use available State funds
27 appropriated by the General Assembly for the pilot program.

28 (b) Consultation.--The department shall consult with the
29 International Dyslexia Association, or any other recognized
30 organization that specializes in and has expertise with the
31 scientific basis of dyslexia and its intervention, in
32 establishing, operating and evaluating the pilot program.

33 (c) Guidelines and procedures.--No later than three months
34 after the effective date of this article, the department shall
35 establish guidelines and procedures for the pilot program that
36 shall include:

37 (1) Evidence-based core reading programs that
38 incorporate systematic phonemic instruction and develop basic
39 reading skills for all students in the pilot program to use.

40 (2) An evidence-based screening for low phonemic
41 awareness and other evidence-based risk factors for early
42 reading deficiencies and dyslexia. The screening shall be
43 given to all kindergarten students enrolled in the school
44 district three times per school year. The first screening
45 shall be at the beginning of the school year, the second
46 screening during the middle of the school year and the third
47 screening in the final quarter of the school year.

48 (3) Intervention measures, including multisensory
49 structured language programs for students scoring below the
50 benchmark that provide timely targeted instruction and
51 strategic reteaching and intensive intervention in identified

1 areas.

2 (4) Diagnostic assessments for students scoring below
3 the benchmark that are nationally standardized, norm-
4 referenced screening assessments of phonological awareness,
5 alphabetic knowledge, concept of word and grapheme phoneme
6 correspondence. The screening shall be demonstrated to have
7 predictive validity and classification accuracy.

8 Section 1705-C. School district responsibilities.

9 (a) Notification.--

10 (1) When a student is suspected of having an early
11 reading deficiency or dyslexia, the participating school
12 district shall notify the student's parent or guardian that
13 the student, as part of the pilot program, is eligible to
14 receive reading intervention services to measure the
15 effectiveness of early reading assistance programs. The
16 participating school district shall require the parent or
17 guardian to indicate in writing that the parent or guardian
18 voluntarily and knowingly consents to the student's continued
19 participation in the pilot program. Each participating school
20 district shall provide to the parent or guardian of the
21 student suspected of having an early reading deficiency or
22 dyslexia, information about early reading deficiencies and
23 dyslexia and recommended evidence-based resources and
24 interventions.

25 (2) Participation in the pilot program, screening or
26 intervention assistance does not preclude a parent or
27 guardian from requesting an evaluation for special education
28 at any time, including prior to or during the course of early
29 intervention assistance.

30 (b) Evaluation.--

31 (1) Each participating school district shall annually
32 report to the department data and information about the
33 operation of the pilot program, in the manner prescribed by
34 the department.

35 (2) The department shall contract with a nationally
36 recognized educational evaluation institution or organization
37 to provide an evaluation of the pilot program to review the
38 effectiveness of evidence-based early reading assistance
39 programs for students with risk factors for early reading
40 deficiencies and dyslexia and to determine if the programs
41 reduce special education costs. The evaluation shall be
42 published on the department's publicly accessible Internet
43 website.