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# Senate Education Committee

Senator Mike Folmer  
Chairman

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**BILL SUMMARY**  
**Senate Bill 873, Printer's No. 1163**  
**Prime Sponsor: Senator Wiley**

**SYNOPSIS:**

Senate Bill 873 amends the Public School Code to provide for a Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program.

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

Senate Bill 873 amends the Public School Code to provide for a Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program. The Department of Education must establish a three-year pilot program consisting of three school districts to provide evidence-based early screening and evidence-based intervention services for children with risk factors for dyslexia. The purpose of the pilot program is to evaluate the effectiveness of an evidence-based early reading assistance program and the potential to reduce future special education costs.

To participate, a school district may submit a proposal to the department that uses an evidence-based method of screening children in kindergarten through second grade for low phonemic awareness and other risk factors associated with dyslexia. If a student is suspected of having dyslexia, the school district shall notify the child's parent or guardian that the student is eligible to receive evidence-based reading intervention services. The parent or guardian must consent in writing to the student's participation in the pilot program. At that time, the school district must provide an intervention program and evaluate the effects of the reading program on a child's identified risk factors.

In the third school year, the Secretary shall submit a report to the General Assembly evaluating the pilot program and providing further recommendations.

Effective Date: Immediately.

**AMENDMENT TO SB 873:**

The amendment expands the parameters of the pilot into a Dyslexia and Early Reading Intervention Pilot Program. It streamlines how the pilot program would work, clarifies the role of the department, limits the screening to kindergarten students unless they score below the benchmark and eliminates reporting to the General Assembly by requiring the department to place the evaluation on its website.

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