

ASSEMBLY, No. 3605

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 13, 2012

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NELSON T. ALBANO

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman MATTHEW W. MILAM

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:

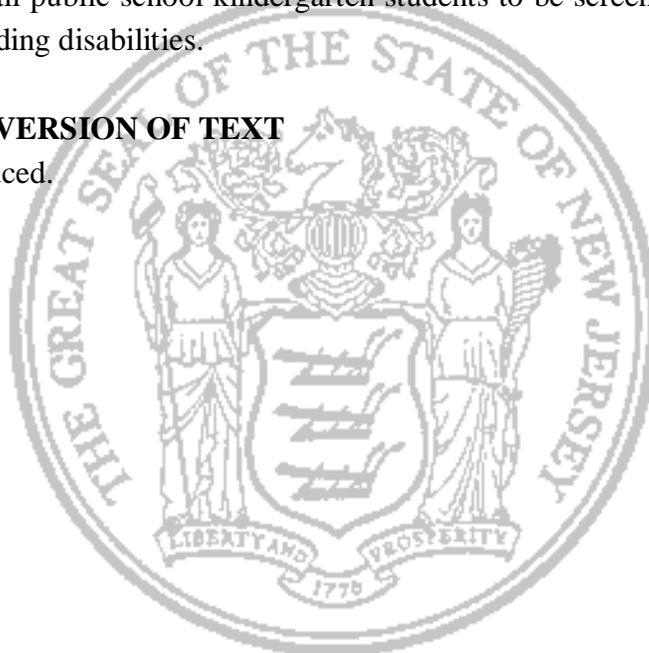
Assemblywoman Lampitt

SYNOPSIS

Requires all public school kindergarten students to be screened for dyslexia and other reading disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/15/2013)

1 AN ACT concerning reading disabilities among public school
2 students and supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall distribute to each
9 board of education information on screening instruments available
10 to identify students who exhibit potential indicators of dyslexia and
11 other reading disabilities pursuant to section 2 of this act. The
12 commissioner shall provide information on the screening
13 instruments appropriate for kindergarten students and on screening
14 instruments that may be suitably used for older students. A board
15 of education shall select and implement age-appropriate screening
16 instruments for the early diagnosis of dyslexia and other reading
17 disabilities.

18 b. The commissioner shall develop and distribute to each board
19 of education guidance on appropriate intervention strategies for
20 students diagnosed with dyslexia or other reading disabilities.

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22 2. a. A board of education shall ensure that each kindergarten
23 student enrolled in the school district is screened for dyslexia and
24 other reading disabilities using a screening instrument selected
25 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

26 b. In the event that a student who would have been enrolled in
27 kindergarten during or after the 2013-2014 school year enrolls in
28 the district in grades one through six on or after the effective date of
29 this act and has no record of being previously screened for dyslexia
30 or other reading disabilities pursuant to this act, the board of
31 education shall ensure that the newly-enrolled student is screened
32 for dyslexia and other reading disabilities using a screening
33 instrument selected pursuant to section 1 of this act.

34 c. The screening shall be administered by a teacher or other
35 teaching staff member properly trained in the screening process for
36 dyslexia and other reading disabilities.

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38 3. In the event that a student is determined through the
39 screening conducted pursuant to section 2 of this act to exhibit
40 potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disability, the board
41 of education shall ensure that the student receives a comprehensive
42 assessment for the learning disorder. In the event that a diagnosis is
43 confirmed, the board of education shall provide appropriate
44 intervention strategies to the student, including intense instruction
45 on phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency, vocabulary, and
46 reading comprehension.

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
2 the 2013-2014 school year.

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STATEMENT

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7 Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education must distribute to
8 each board of education information on screening instruments
9 available to identify students who exhibit potential indicators of
10 dyslexia and other reading disabilities. The commissioner must
11 also develop and distribute to each board of education guidance on
12 appropriate intervention strategies for students diagnosed with
13 dyslexia or other reading disabilities.

14 The bill requires a board of education to screen each
15 kindergarten student enrolled in the school district for dyslexia and
16 other reading disabilities. Screening will also be required for a
17 student who would have been enrolled in kindergarten during or
18 after the 2013-2014 school year who initially enrolls in the district
19 in grades one through six when there is no record of prior
20 screening. The bill provides that the screening must be
21 administered by a teacher or other teaching staff member properly
22 trained in the screening process for dyslexia and other reading
23 disabilities.

24 The bill also requires a board of education to ensure that each
25 student who is determined through the screening to exhibit potential
26 indicators of dyslexia or other reading disability is provided with a
27 comprehensive assessment for the learning disorders. In the event
28 that a diagnosis is confirmed, the board of education must provide
29 appropriate intervention strategies to the student, including intense
30 instruction on phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency,
31 vocabulary and reading comprehension. Early intervention for a
32 student with dyslexia or other reading disability is critical for the
33 student's academic success.