

[Second Reprint]
SENATE, No. 2442

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 8, 2013

Sponsored by:

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator DIANE B. ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington)

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)

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Turner, Madden, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblymen Coughlin, Giblin, Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblyman Conaway and Assemblywoman Mosquera

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on November 18, 2013, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/20/2013)

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

4
 5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
 6 of New Jersey:

7
 8 ²1. As used in this act:

9 “Potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities”
 10 means indicators that include, but shall not be limited to, difficulty
 11 in acquiring language skills; inability to comprehend oral or written
 12 language; difficulty in rhyming words; difficulty in naming letters,
 13 recognizing letters, matching letters to sounds, and blending sounds
 14 when speaking and reading words; difficulty recognizing and
 15 remembering sight words; consistent transposition of number
 16 sequences, letter reversals, inversions, and substitutions; and
 17 trouble in replication of content.²

18
 19 ²[1] 2.² a. The Commissioner of Education shall distribute to
 20 each board of education information on screening instruments
 21 available to identify students who ²[exhibit] possess one or more²
 22 potential indicators of dyslexia ²[and] or² other reading disabilities
 23 pursuant to section ²[2] 3² of this act. The commissioner shall
 24 provide information on the screening instruments appropriate for
 25 kindergarten ²[and first] through second² grade¹ students and on
 26 screening instruments that may be suitably used for older students.
 27 A board of education shall select and implement age-appropriate
 28 screening instruments for the early diagnosis of dyslexia and other
 29 reading disabilities.

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

33
 34 ²[2] 3.² a. A board of education shall ensure that each
 35 ¹[kindergarten]¹ student enrolled in the school district ²who has
 36 exhibited one or more potential indicators of dyslexia or other
 37 reading disabilities² is screened for dyslexia and other reading
 38 disabilities using a screening instrument selected pursuant to section
 39 ²[1] 2² of this act ¹no later than the student’s completion of the
 40 first ²semester of the second² grade¹.

41 b. In the event that a student who would have been enrolled in
 42 kindergarten ¹or ²[the first]² grade¹ ²one or two² during or after the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted June 20, 2013.

²Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted November 18, 2013.

1 ²~~2013-2014~~ 2014-2015² school year enrolls in the district in
2 ²~~kindergarten or~~ grades ²~~1~~ two¹ one² through six ²~~on~~
3 during² or after the ²~~effective date of this act~~ 2015-2016 school
4 year² and has no record of being previously screened for dyslexia or
5 other reading disabilities pursuant to this act, the board of education
6 shall ensure that the newly-enrolled student is screened for dyslexia
7 and other reading disabilities using a screening instrument selected
8 pursuant to section ²~~1~~ 2² of this act ²at the same time other
9 students enrolled in the student's grade are screened for dyslexia
10 and other reading disabilities or, if other students enrolled in the
11 student's grade have previously been screened, within 90 calendar
12 days of the date the student is enrolled in the district².

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

16
17 ²~~3~~ 4² In the event that a student is determined through the
18 screening conducted pursuant to section ²~~2~~ 3² of this act to
19 ²~~exhibit~~ possess one or more² potential indicators of dyslexia or
20 other reading ²~~disability~~ disabilities², the board of education shall
21 ensure that the student receives a comprehensive assessment for the
22 learning disorder. In the event that a diagnosis ²of dyslexia or other
23 reading disability² is confirmed ²by the comprehensive assessment²,
24 the board of education shall provide appropriate ²evidence-based²
25 intervention strategies to the student, including intense instruction
26 on phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency, vocabulary, and
27 reading comprehension.

28
29 ²~~4~~ 5² This act shall take effect immediately and shall first
30 apply to the ²~~2013-2014~~ 2014-2015² school year ²; provided,
31 however, that the Commissioner of Education shall take any
32 anticipatory actions that the commissioner determines to be
33 necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this act prior
34 to the 2014-2015 school year².