

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 873

Sponsor:

Printer's No. 1163

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 5, by striking out "Screening" and
2 inserting

3 and Early Literacy Intervention

4 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 12 through 18; pages 2 and 3, lines
5 1 through 30; page 4, lines 1 through 25, by striking out all of
6 said lines on said pages and inserting

7 ARTICLE XVII-C

8 DYSLEXIA AND EARLY LITERACY INTERVENTION PILOT PROGRAM

9 Section 1701-C. Short title of article.

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

12 Section 1702-C. Definitions.

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

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

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

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

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

34 Section 1703-C. Establishment.

35 (a) Pilot program.--The department shall establish a

1 Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program to
2 provide evidence-based early screening and multitier support
3 systems, using evidence-based intervention services for students
4 with potential risk factors for early reading deficiencies and
5 dyslexia, such as low phonemic awareness, low letter and symbol
6 naming and inability to remember sequences.

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

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

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

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

20 (i) evidence-based core reading program;

21 (ii) evidence-based method of screening all
22 kindergarten students;

23 (iii) evidence-based intervention programs; and

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

26 Section 1704-C. Department responsibilities.

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

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

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

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

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

50 (3) Intervention measures, including multisensory
51 structured language programs for students scoring below the

1 benchmark that provide timely targeted instruction and
2 strategic reteaching and intensive intervention in identified
3 areas.

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

10 Section 1705-C. School district responsibilities.

11 (a) Notification.--

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

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

32 (b) Evaluation.--

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

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