

[Second Reprint]  
**SENATE, No. 2442**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**215th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JANUARY 8, 2013

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**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 <sup>2</sup>1. 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.<sup>2</sup>

18  
 19 <sup>2</sup>[1] 2.<sup>2</sup> a. The Commissioner of Education shall distribute to  
 20 each board of education information on screening instruments  
 21 available to identify students who <sup>2</sup>[exhibit] possess one or more<sup>2</sup>  
 22 potential indicators of dyslexia <sup>2</sup>[and] or<sup>2</sup> other reading disabilities  
 23 pursuant to section <sup>2</sup>[2] 3<sup>2</sup> of this act. The commissioner shall  
 24 provide information on the screening instruments appropriate for  
 25 kindergarten <sup>2</sup>[and first] through second<sup>2</sup> grade<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>[2] 3.<sup>2</sup> a. A board of education shall ensure that each  
 35 <sup>1</sup>[kindergarten]<sup>1</sup> student enrolled in the school district <sup>2</sup>who has  
 36 exhibited one or more potential indicators of dyslexia or other  
 37 reading disabilities<sup>2</sup> is screened for dyslexia and other reading  
 38 disabilities using a screening instrument selected pursuant to section  
 39 <sup>2</sup>[1] 2<sup>2</sup> of this act <sup>1</sup>no later than the student’s completion of the  
 40 first <sup>2</sup>semester of the second<sup>2</sup> grade<sup>1</sup>.

41 b. In the event that a student who would have been enrolled in  
 42 kindergarten <sup>1</sup>or <sup>2</sup>[the first]<sup>2</sup> grade<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>one or two<sup>2</sup> 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:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SED committee amendments adopted June 20, 2013.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted November 18, 2013.

1 <sup>2</sup>~~2013-2014~~ 2014-2015<sup>2</sup> school year enrolls in the district in  
2 <sup>2</sup>~~kindergarten or~~ grades <sup>2</sup>~~1~~<sup>1</sup>~~two~~<sup>1</sup> one<sup>2</sup> through six <sup>2</sup>~~on~~  
3 during<sup>2</sup> or after the <sup>2</sup>~~effective date of this act~~ 2015-2016 school  
4 year<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>~~1~~ 2<sup>2</sup> of this act <sup>2</sup>at 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 district<sup>2</sup>.

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 <sup>2</sup>~~3~~ 4<sup>2</sup> In the event that a student is determined through the  
18 screening conducted pursuant to section <sup>2</sup>~~2~~ 3<sup>2</sup> of this act to  
19 <sup>2</sup>~~exhibit~~ possess one or more<sup>2</sup> potential indicators of dyslexia or  
20 other reading <sup>2</sup>~~disability~~ disabilities<sup>2</sup>, 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 <sup>2</sup>of dyslexia or other  
23 reading disability<sup>2</sup> is confirmed <sup>2</sup>by the comprehensive assessment<sup>2</sup>,  
24 the board of education shall provide appropriate <sup>2</sup>evidence-based<sup>2</sup>  
25 intervention strategies to the student, including intense instruction  
26 on phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency, vocabulary, and  
27 reading comprehension.

28  
29 <sup>2</sup>~~4~~ 5<sup>2</sup> This act shall take effect immediately and shall first  
30 apply to the <sup>2</sup>~~2013-2014~~ 2014-2015<sup>2</sup> school year <sup>2</sup>; 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 year<sup>2</sup>.