

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By

1 AMEND House Bill No. 1611, Page 1, In the Title, Lines 2-3, by deleting the phrase "the
2 establishment of developmental guidance and counseling programs in schools" and inserting in lieu
3 thereof the following:

4
5 "elementary and secondary education"; and

6
7 Further amend said bill and page , Section A, Line 2, by inserting after all of said section and line
8 the following:

9
10 "161.1005. 1. By July 1, 2017, the department of elementary and secondary education shall
11 employ a dyslexia therapist, licensed psychometrist, licensed speech-language pathologist, certified
12 academic language therapist, or certified training specialist to serve as the department's dyslexia
13 specialist. Such dyslexia specialist shall have a minimum of three years of field experience in
14 screening, identifying, and treating dyslexia and related disorders.

15 2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall ensure that the dyslexia
16 specialist has completed training and received certification from a program approved by the
17 legislative task force on dyslexia established in section 633.420 and is able to provide necessary
18 information and support to school district teachers.

19 3. The dyslexia specialist shall:

20 (1) Be highly trained in dyslexia and related disorders, including best practice interventions
21 and treatment models;

22 (2) Be responsible for the implementation of professional development; and

23 (3) Serve as the primary source of information and support for districts addressing the needs
24 of students with dyslexia and related disorders.

25 4. In addition to the duties assigned under subsection 3 of this section, the dyslexia
26 specialist shall assist the department of elementary and secondary education with developing and
27 administering professional development programs to be made available to school districts no later
28 than the 2017-18 school year. The programs shall focus on educating teachers regarding the
29 indicators of dyslexia, the science surrounding teaching a student who is dyslexic, and classroom
30 accommodations necessary for a student with dyslexia."; and

31
32 Further amend said bill, Page 2, Section 167.266, Line 19, by inserting after all of said section and
33 line the following:

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35 "633.420. 1. For the purposes of this section, the term "dyslexia" means a disorder that is
36 neurological in origin, characterized by difficulties with accurate and fluent word recognition, and

Standing Action Taken _____ Date _____

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1 poor spelling and decoding abilities that typically result from a deficit in the phonological
2 component of language, often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of
3 effective classroom instruction, and of which secondary consequences may include problems in
4 reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and
5 background knowledge. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a district from assessing students for
6 dyslexia and offering students specialized reading instruction if a determination is made that a
7 student suffers from dyslexia. Unless required by federal law, nothing in this definition shall require
8 a student with dyslexia to be automatically determined eligible as a student with a disability.

9 2. There is hereby created the "Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia". The joint committee
10 on education shall provide technical and administrative support as required by the task force to
11 fulfill its duties. The task force shall meet at least quarterly and may hold meetings by telephone or
12 video conference. The task force shall advise and make recommendations to the governor, general
13 assembly, and relevant state agencies regarding matters concerning individuals with dyslexia,
14 including education and other adult and adolescent services.

15 3. The task force shall be comprised of eighteen members consisting of the following:

16 (1) Two members of the senate appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate, with
17 one member appointed from the minority party and one member appointed from the majority party;

18 (2) Two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of
19 representatives, with one member appointed from the minority party and one member appointed
20 from the majority party;

21 (3) The commissioner of education, or his or her designee;

22 (4) One representative from an institution of higher education located in this state with
23 specialized expertise in dyslexia and reading instruction;

24 (5) A representative from a state teachers association or the Missouri National Education
25 Association;

26 (6) A representative from the International Dyslexia Association of Missouri;

27 (7) A representative from Decoding Dyslexia of Missouri;

28 (8) A representative from the Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals;

29 (9) A representative from the Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education;

30 (10) A professional licensed in the state of Missouri with experience diagnosing dyslexia
31 including, but not limited to, a licensed psychologist, school psychologist, or neuropsychologist;

32 (11) A speech-language pathologist with training and experience in early literacy
33 development and effective research-based intervention techniques for dyslexia, including an Orton-
34 Gillingham remediation program recommended by the Missouri Speech-Language Hearing
35 Association, or a certified academic language therapist recommended by the Academic Language
36 Therapists Association who is a resident of this state;

37 (12) A representative from an independent private provider or nonprofit organization
38 servicing individuals with dyslexia;

39 (13) An assistive technology specialist with expertise in accessible print materials and
40 assistive technology used by individuals with dyslexia recommended by the Missouri assistive
41 technology council;

42 (14) One private citizen who has a child who has been diagnosed with dyslexia;

43 (15) One private citizen who has been diagnosed with dyslexia; and

44 (16) A representative of the Missouri State Council of the International Reading
45 Association.

46 4. The members of the task force, other than the members from the general assembly and ex
47 officio members, shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate or the speaker of the
48 house of representatives by September 1, 2016, by alternating appointments beginning with the

1 president pro tempore of the senate. A chairperson shall be selected by the members of the task
2 force. Any vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
3 Members shall serve on the task force without compensation.

4 5. The task force shall make recommendations for a statewide system for identification,
5 intervention, and delivery of supports for students with dyslexia, including the development of
6 resource materials and professional development activities. These recommendations shall be
7 included in a report to the governor and legislature and shall include findings and proposed
8 legislation and shall be made available no longer than twelve months from the task force's first
9 meeting.

10 6. The recommendations and resource materials developed by the task force shall:

11 (1) Identify valid and reliable screening and evaluation assessments and protocols that can
12 be used and the appropriate personnel to administer such assessments in order to identify children
13 with dyslexia or the characteristics of dyslexia as part of an ongoing reading progress monitoring
14 system, multi-tiered system of supports, and special education eligibility determinations in schools;

15 (2) Recommend an evidence-based reading instruction, with consideration of the National
16 Reading Panel Report and Orton-Gillingham methodology principles for use in all Missouri schools,
17 and intervention system, including a list of effective dyslexia intervention programs, to address
18 dyslexia or characteristics of dyslexia for use by schools in multi-tiered systems of support and for
19 services as appropriate for special education eligible students;

20 (3) Develop and implement preservice and inservice professional development activities to
21 address dyslexia identification and intervention, including utilization of accessible print materials
22 and assistive technology, within degree programs such as education, reading, special education,
23 speech-language pathology, and psychology;

24 (4) Review teacher certification and professional development requirements as they relate to
25 the needs of students with dyslexia;

26 (5) Examine the barriers to accurate information on the prevalence of students with dyslexia
27 across the state and recommend a process for accurate reporting of demographic data; and

28 (6) Study and evaluate current practices for diagnosing, treating, and educating children in
29 this state and examine how current laws and regulations affect students with dyslexia in order to
30 present recommendations to the governor and general assembly.

31 7. The task force shall hire or contract for hire specialist services to support the work of the
32 task force as necessary with appropriations made by the general assembly for that purpose or from
33 other available funding.

34 8. The task force authorized under this section shall automatically sunset on August 31,
35 2018, unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly."; and

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37 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
38 accordingly.