

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1928

## 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BURLISON.

5408H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

### AN ACT

To amend chapters 161 and 633, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to dyslexia.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapters 161 and 633, RSMo, are amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 161.1005 and 633.420, to read as follows:

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

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

**3. The dyslexia specialist shall:**

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

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

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

**4. In addition to the duties assigned under subsection 3 of this section, the dyslexia specialist shall assist the department of elementary and secondary education with**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

19 developing and administering professional development programs to be made available to  
20 school districts no later than the 2017-18 school year. The programs shall focus on  
21 educating teachers regarding the indicators of dyslexia, the science surrounding teaching  
22 a student who is dyslexic, and classroom accommodations necessary for a student with  
23 dyslexia.

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

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

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

21 (1) Four members of the general assembly, with two members from the senate to  
22 be appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate and two members from the house  
23 of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

24 (2) The commissioner of education, or his or her designee;

25 (3) One representative from an institution of higher education located in this state  
26 with specialized expertise in dyslexia and reading instruction;

27 (4) A representative from a state teachers association or the Missouri National  
28 Education Association;

29 (5) A representative from the International Dyslexia Association of Missouri;

30 (6) A representative from Decoding Dyslexia of Missouri;

31           (7) A representative from the Missouri Association of Elementary School  
32 Principals;

33           (8) A representative from the Missouri Council of Administrators of Special  
34 Education;

35           (9) A professional licensed in the state of Missouri with experience diagnosing  
36 dyslexia including, but not limited to, a licensed psychologist, school psychologist, or  
37 neuropsychologist;

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

43           (11) A representative from an independent private provider or nonprofit  
44 organization serving individuals with dyslexia;

45           (12) An assistive technology specialist with expertise in accessible print materials  
46 and assistive technology used by individuals with dyslexia recommended by the Missouri  
47 assistive technology council;

48           (13) One private citizen who has a child who has been diagnosed with dyslexia;

49           (14) One private citizen who has been diagnosed with dyslexia; and

50           (15) A representative of the Missouri State Council of the International Reading  
51 Association.

52           4. The members of the task force, other than the members from the general  
53 assembly and ex officio members, shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the  
54 senate or the speaker of the house of representatives by September 1, 2016, by alternating  
55 appointments beginning with the president pro tempore of the senate. A chairperson shall  
56 be selected by the members of the task force. Any vacancy on the task force shall be filled  
57 in the same manner as the original appointment. Members shall serve on the task force  
58 without compensation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

92           **8. The task force authorized under this section shall automatically sunset on August**  
93 **31, 2018, unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly.**

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