

Senate Bill No. 69

(By Senators Unger, Laird, Miller and Kirkendoll)

[Introduced January 14, 2015; referred to the Committee on Education; and then to the
Committee on Finance.]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
designated §18-2-36, relating to the State Board of Education; requiring county boards of
education to screen for dyslexia and other reading disabilities; requiring the Department of
Education to provide information on screening instruments; and providing for assessment
and intervention.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new
section, designated §18-2-36, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-36. Dyslexia screening, assessment and intervention.

(a) The Department of Education shall distribute to each county board of education
information on screening instruments available to identify students who exhibit potential indicators
of dyslexia and other reading disabilities. The department shall provide information on screening

1 instruments appropriate for kindergarten students and on screening instruments that may be suitably
2 used for older students. Each board of education shall select and implement age-appropriate
3 screening instruments for the early diagnosis of dyslexia and other reading disabilities.

4 (b) The department shall develop and distribute to each board of education guidance on
5 appropriate intervention strategies for students diagnosed with dyslexia or other reading disabilities.

6 (c) Each board of education shall ensure that each kindergarten student enrolled in the county
7 is screened for dyslexia and other reading disabilities using a screening instrument selected pursuant
8 to this section.

9 (d) If a student who would have been enrolled in kindergarten during or after the 2016-2017
10 school year enrolls in the county in grades one through six on or after the effective date of this
11 section and has no record of being previously screened for dyslexia or other reading disabilities, the
12 board shall ensure that the student is screened for dyslexia or other reading disabilities using a
13 screening instrument selected pursuant to this section.

14 (e) The screening shall be administered by a teacher or other teaching staff member properly
15 trained in the screening process.

16 (f) If a student is determined to exhibit potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading
17 disability, the board shall ensure that the student receives a comprehensive assessment for the
18 learning disorder. If a diagnosis is confirmed, the board shall provide appropriate intervention
19 strategies to the student, including intense instruction on phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency,
20 vocabulary and reading comprehension.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Education to assist county boards of education to screen and assess students in kindergarten and new enrollees in grades 1

through 6 who have not been screened for dyslexia and other reading disabilities. The bill requires county boards of education to screen those students for dyslexia or other reading disabilities.

§18-2-36 is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.