

Senate Bill No. 410

(By Senators Unger, Miller, Beach and McCabe)

[Introduced January 22, 2014; referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources; and then to the Committee on Education.]

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; screening for dyslexia and other reading disabilities; 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

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

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

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

14 (d) If a student who would have been enrolled in kindergarten
15 during or after the 2015-2016 school year enrolls in the county in
16 grades one through six on or after the effective date of this
17 section and has no record of being previously screened for dyslexia
18 or other reading disabilities, the board shall ensure that the
19 student is screened for dyslexia or other reading disabilities
20 using a screening instrument selected pursuant to this section.

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

23 (f) If a student is determined to exhibit potential indicators

1 of dyslexia or other reading disability, the board shall ensure
2 that the student receives a comprehensive assessment for the
3 learning disorder. If a diagnosis is confirmed, the board shall
4 provide appropriate intervention strategies to the student,
5 including intense instruction on phonemic awareness, phonics and
6 fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Education to require and 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; and intervene in order to help them overcome the disability.

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