## FIRST ENGROSSMENT

Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

## **ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1231**

Introduced by

Representatives Strinden, J. Johnson, Pyle, Satrom, Schatz Senators Cleary, Davison, Kreun, Myrdal

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-13 of the North Dakota

Century Code, relating to teacher license requirements for reading instruction competency; to

amend and reenact sections 15.1-32-25 and 15.1-32-26 of the North Dakota Century

Code, relating to the dyslexia screening and intervention program; to repeal section 15.1-32-25

of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to mandatory dyslexia screening; to provide for a

legislative management study and the dyslexia screening and intervention program; and to

provide for a legislative management report; and to provide an effective date.

## 8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

9 SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15.1-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is created 10 and enacted as follows: 11 Teaching license - Reading instruction competency. 12 The board shall ensure a candidate for teacher licensure demonstrates competencies 13 in beginning reading instruction based on scientifically and research-based best 14 practices. Competencies must include the acquisition of knowledge of the essential-15 components of beginning reading instruction, including: 16 Phonemic awareness; 17 Phonics; 18 Fluency; <u>C.</u> 19 d. Vocabulary; 20 <u>e.</u> Comprehension; 21 f. How to assess student reading ability; and 22 How to identify and correct reading difficulties.

- 2. A kindergarten through grade three initial teacher licensure candidate must provide evidence that the candidate meets the competency standards of the components under subsection 1.
  - 3. A teacher licensure candidate satisfies the requirements of this section if the candidate demonstrates the candidate has received training in competencies related to reading instruction from an accredited or approved program, or demonstrates mastery of the topics provided under subsection 1. The board may issue a provisional license for up to two years to a teacher licensure candidate who does not meet the requirements of this section.

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-32-25 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-32-25. Reading Dyslexia screening.

Each public elementary school shall include in the developing and processing of assessments and screening of reading, administer universal screening for dyslexia which includes the core components of phonetic awareness, decoding, and spelling and which is approved by the superintendent of public instruction. The screening also must be offered if requested by a parent, legal guardian, or teacher.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-32-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 15.1-32-26. Dyslexia screening <u>and intervention</u> Pilot program Report to legislative management Professional development.
  - 1. For purposes of this section:
    - a. "Dyslexia" means a specific learning disability that is neurological neurobiological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent recognition of words and poor spelling and decoding abilities, independent of the individual's general intelligence level.
    - b. "Specialist trained in dyslexia <u>characteristics</u>" means an individual who:
      - (1) Has expertise providing training in phonological and phonemic awareness, sound and symbol relationships, alphabet knowledge, rapid naming skills, and encoding and decoding skills; <u>and</u>
      - (2) Is fluent in the dyslexia intervention process; and

1			(3) Has training in identifying dyslexia <u>characteristics and intervention</u>
2			processes from an approved provider on a list maintained by the
3			superintendent of public instruction.
4	2.	Beg	inning with the 2019-20 school year and continuing through the 2022-23 school
5		<del>year</del>	<del>; the <u>The</u> superintendent of public instruction shall <del>establish and operate a pilot</del></del>
6		prog	ram to provide guidance and recommendations regarding proven strategies and
7		early	y screening and intervention services for children with risk factors for dyslexia
8		<u>char</u>	acteristics, including low phonemic awareness.
9	3.	<del>To b</del>	e eligible to participate in the program, aEach school district, regional education
10		asso	ociation, or and special education unit must submit an application to the
11		supe	erintendent whichshall:
12		a.	Identifies a method of screening children for low phonemic awareness and other
13			risk factors for dyslexia;
14		<del>b.</del>	Provides for the enrollment of children identified as having risk factors for
15			dyslexia in a reading program staffed by specialists trained in dyslexia and
16			multisensory structured language programs; and
17		<del>C.</del>	Includes a methodology for evaluating the effects of the reading program on the
18			identified risk factors of the child.
19	<del>4.</del>	Eac	h grantee selected to participate in the program shall:
20		<del>a.</del>	Provide low phonemic awareness and other dyslexia risk factor screenings for
21			children under seven years of age-through a reading program established under
22			subsection 3; For enrolled children seven years of age and younger, provide a
23			universal screening for dyslexia including core components of phonemic
24			awareness, decoding, and spelling, which must be approved by the
25			superintendent of public instruction and which must be developed and overseen
26			by a specialist trained in dyslexia characteristics;
27		<u>b.</u>	Include a process to further evaluate identified risk factors;
28		<u>C.</u>	Describe the intervention services for the identified dyslexia risk factors;
29	ŧ	<del>.</del> d.	Provide reading intervention services to students identified as having-
30			dyslexia with dyslexia characteristics;

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Administer assessments, approved by the superintendent of public instruction, to <del>с.</del>е. 2 determine the effectiveness of the programintervention services in improving the 3 reading and learning skills of children enrolled in the programthe child; and 4 <del>d.</del>f. Provide professional development on dyslexia identificationcharacteristics and 5 interventions to grant participantskindergarten through grade three appropriate 6 personnel of the school district and special education unit. Professional 7 development must meet the requirements for continuing education credits for-8 license renewal. 9 <u>4.</u> A school district or special education unit shall provide an assessment under-10 subdivision a of subsection 3 upon request by a parent, legal guardian, or teacher. 11 The board of each participating grantee shall report annually to the superintendent of 12 public instruction regarding the operation, results, and effectiveness of the pilot-13 program in a manner prescribed by the superintendent. Before July 1, 20212024, the 14 superintendent of public instruction shall compile the information and provide a report 15 to the legislative management with a recommendation whether to continue the pilot-16 program-beyond the 2022-23 school year regarding dyslexia screening and 17 intervention under this sectionthe program. 18 **SECTION 3. REPEAL.** Section 15.1-32-25 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed. 19 SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - LITERACY AND DYSLEXIA -20 STATUTORY REVIEW. During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider 21 studying provisions of the North Dakota Century Code relating to literacy, dyslexia, and related-22 teacher training. The study must include a review of the pilot program established under section-23 15.1-32-36. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, 24 together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth-25 legislative assembly. 26 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 1 of this Act becomes effective on January 1, 27 <del>2025.</del>