

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

1 A BILL for an Act ~~to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-13 of the North Dakota~~  
2 ~~Century Code, relating to teacher license requirements for reading instruction competency; to~~  
3 amend and reenact ~~section~~sections 15.1-32-25 and 15.1-32-26 of the North Dakota Century  
4 Code, relating to ~~the dyslexia screening and intervention program; to repeal section 15.1-32-25~~  
5 ~~of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to mandatory dyslexia screening; to provide for a~~  
6 legislative management study and the dyslexia screening and intervention program; and to  
7 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 ~~1. 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 ~~a. Phonemic awareness;~~

17 ~~b. Phonics;~~

18 ~~c. Fluency;~~

19 ~~d. Vocabulary;~~

20 ~~e. Comprehension;~~

21 ~~f. How to assess student reading ability; and~~

22 ~~g. How to identify and correct reading difficulties.~~

1 ~~2. A kindergarten through grade three initial teacher licensure candidate must provide~~  
2 ~~evidence that the candidate meets the competency standards of the components~~  
3 ~~under subsection 1.~~

4 ~~3. A teacher licensure candidate satisfies the requirements of this section if the candidate~~  
5 ~~demonstrates the candidate has received training in competencies related to reading~~  
6 ~~instruction from an accredited or approved program, or demonstrates mastery of the~~  
7 ~~topics provided under subsection 1. The board may issue a provisional license for up~~  
8 ~~to two years to a teacher licensure candidate who does not meet the requirements of~~  
9 ~~this section.~~

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

12 **15.1-32-25. ReadingDyslexia screening.**

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

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

20 **15.1-32-26. Dyslexia screening and intervention –Pilot program - Report to legislative**  
21 **management - Professional development.**

22 1. For purposes of this section:

23 a. "Dyslexia" means a specific learning disability that is ~~neurological~~neurobiological  
24 in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent recognition of  
25 words and poor spelling and decoding abilities, independent of the individual's  
26 general intelligence level.

27 b. "Specialist trained in dyslexia characteristics" means an individual who:

28 (1) Has expertise providing training in phonological and phonemic awareness,  
29 sound and symbol relationships, alphabet knowledge, rapid naming skills,  
30 and encoding and decoding skills; and

31 (2) ~~Is fluent in the dyslexia intervention process; and~~

- 1                   (3) Has training in identifying dyslexia characteristics and intervention  
2                   processes from an approved provider on a list maintained by the  
3                   superintendent of public instruction.
- 4                   2. Beginning with the 2019-20 school year and continuing through the 2022-23 school  
5                   year, ~~the~~The superintendent of public instruction shall establish and operate a pilot  
6                   program to provide guidance and recommendations regarding proven strategies and  
7                   early screening and intervention services for children with risk factors for dyslexia  
8                   characteristics, including low phonemic awareness.
- 9                   3. ~~To be eligible to participate in the program, a~~Each school district, regional education  
10                  ~~association, or~~ and special education unit must submit an application to the  
11                  superintendent which shall:
- 12                  a. ~~Identifies a method of screening children for low phonemic awareness and other~~  
13                  ~~risk factors for dyslexia;~~
- 14                  b. ~~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                  c. ~~Includes a methodology for evaluating the effects of the reading program on the~~  
18                  ~~identified risk factors of the child.~~
- 19                  4. ~~Each grantee selected to participate in the program shall:~~
- 20                  a. 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                  b. Include a process to further evaluate identified risk factors;
- 28                  c. Describe the intervention services for the identified dyslexia risk factors;
- 29                  b-d. Provide reading intervention services to students identified as having  
30                  dyslexia with dyslexia characteristics;

- 1 e.e. Administer assessments, approved by the superintendent of public instruction, to  
2 determine the effectiveness of the ~~program~~intervention services in improving the  
3 reading and learning skills of children enrolled in the program~~the child~~; and
- 4 d.f. Provide professional development on dyslexia identification~~characteristics~~ and  
5 interventions to grant participants~~kindergarten 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 ~~4. 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 ~~5.~~ 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, 2021~~2024~~, 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 section~~the 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 2025.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1231

- Page 1, line 1, remove "to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-13 of the North Dakota"
- Page 1, line 2, remove "Century Code, relating to teacher license requirements for reading instruction competency;"
- Page 1, line 3, replace "section" with "sections 15.1-32-25 and"
- Page 1, line 3, remove the second "the"
- Page 1, remove line 4
- Page 1, line 5, remove "Century Code, relating to"
- Page 1, line 5, remove "; to provide for a legislative"
- Page 1, line 6, replace "management study" with "and the dyslexia screening and intervention program"
- Page 1, line 6, after the first semicolon insert "and"
- Page 1, line 6, remove "; and to provide an effective"
- Page 1, line 7, remove "date"
- Page 1, remove lines 9 through 22
- Page 2, replace lines 1 through 9 with:

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

**15.1-32-25. ReadingDyslexia 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."

- Page 2, line 25, remove "from an approved provider on a list maintained by the"
- Page 2, line 26, remove "superintendent of public instruction"
- Page 2, line 28, remove the overstrike over "operate a"
- Page 2, line 29, remove the overstrike over "program to"
- Page 3, line 2, after "or" insert "and"
- Page 3, line 2, remove the overstrike over "special education unit"
- Page 3, line 12, remove the overstrike over "Provide low phonemic awareness and other dyslexia risk factor screenings for"

Page 3, line 13, remove the overstrike over "~~children under seven years of age~~"

Page 3, line 14, remove "For enrolled children seven years of age and younger, provide a"

Page 3, remove lines 15 through 17

Page 3, line 18, remove "by a specialist trained in dyslexia characteristics"

Page 3, line 27, replace "kindergarten through grade three" with "appropriate"

Page 3, line 28, remove ". Professional development must"

Page 3, line 29, remove "meet the requirements for continuing education credits for license renewal"

Page 3, line 30, remove "A school district or special education unit shall provide an assessment under"

Page 3, remove line 31

Page 4, line 1, overstrike "5."

Page 4, line 6, remove "dyslexia screening and"

Page 4, line 7, replace "intervention under this section" with "the program"

Page 4, remove lines 8 through 17

Renumber accordingly