

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 ~~sections 15.1-32-25 and~~section 15.1-32-26 of the North Dakota Century
4 Code, relating to ~~mandatory dyslexia screening and~~ the dyslexia screening and intervention
5 program; ~~and to repeal section 15.1-32-25 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to~~
6 mandatory dyslexia screening; to provide for a legislative management study; to provide for a
7 legislative management report; and to provide an effective date.

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

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

11 ~~— **15.1-32-25. ReadingDyslexia screening.**~~

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

17 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
18 and enacted as follows:

19 **Teaching license - Reading instruction competency.**

20 1. The board shall ensure a candidate for teacher licensure demonstrates competencies
21 in beginning reading instruction based on scientifically and research-based best
22 practices. Competencies must include the acquisition of knowledge of the essential
23 components of beginning reading instruction, including:

24 a. Phonemic awareness;

b. Phonics;

c. Fluency;

d. Vocabulary;

e. Comprehension;

f. How to assess student reading ability; and

g. 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 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 and intervention –~~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 characteristics" 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; and

(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 e. ~~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;~~Provide screening for low phonemic awareness and other dyslexia
23 risk factors forFor enrolled children under seven years of age which must be
24 providedand younger, provide a universal screening for dyslexia including core
25 components of phonemic awareness, decoding, and spelling, which must be
26 approved by the superintendent of public instruction and which must be
27 developed and overseen by ~~staff~~ a specialist trained in dyslexia ~~and multisensory~~
28 structured language programscharacteristics;

29 b. Include a process to further evaluate identified risk factors;

30 c. Describe the intervention services for the identified dyslexia risk factors;

- 1 ~~b.d.~~ Provide reading intervention services to students identified as having
2 ~~dyslexia~~with dyslexia characteristics;
- 3 ~~e.e.~~ Administer assessments, approved by the superintendent of public instruction, to
4 determine the effectiveness of the ~~program~~intervention services in improving the
5 reading and learning skills of ~~children enrolled in the program~~the child; and
- 6 ~~d.f.~~ Provide professional development on dyslexia ~~identification~~characteristics and
7 interventions to ~~grant participants~~ appropriate kindergarten through grade three
8 personnel of the school district and special education unit. Professional
9 development must meet the requirements for continuing education credits for
10 license renewal.
- 11 4. A school district or special education unit shall provide an assessment under
12 subdivision a of subsection 3 upon request by a parent, legal guardian, or teacher.
- 13 5. The board of each participating grantee shall report annually to the superintendent of
14 public instruction regarding the operation, results, and effectiveness of the pilot
15 program in a manner prescribed by the superintendent. Before July 1, 2021~~2024~~, the
16 superintendent of public instruction shall ~~compile the information and~~provide a report
17 to the legislative management with a recommendation whether to ~~continue~~regarding
18 ~~the pilot program~~ beyond the 2022-23 school year regarding dyslexia screening and
19 intervention under this section.

20 **SECTION 3. REPEAL.** Section 15.1-32-25 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

21 **SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - LITERACY AND DYSLEXIA -**
22 **STATUTORY REVIEW.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider
23 studying provisions of the North Dakota Century Code relating to literacy, dyslexia, and related
24 teacher training. The study must include a review of the pilot program established under section
25 15.1-32-36. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations,
26 together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth
27 legislative assembly.

28 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 1 of this Act becomes effective on January 1,
29 2025.