
DIGEST

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HB 871 Original

2020 Regular Session

Marino

Abstract: Redefines "dyslexia" for the purposes of testing and providing remediation to students.

Present law provides different definitions of "dyslexia" for different purposes. Proposed law retains present law purposes but provides a uniform definition of the term as follows:

- (1) Present law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt a program for testing students for dyslexia and related disorders and requires school boards to provide remediation for dyslexic students in accordance with the program; defines "dyslexia" for this purpose as a language processing disorder which may be manifested by difficulty processing expressive or receptive, oral or written language despite adequate intelligence, educational exposure, and cultural opportunity.
- (2) Present law requires every child in public school in grades K-3 to be screened at least once for the existence of certain impediments, including dyslexia; defines "dyslexia" for this purpose as in (1) above.
- (3) Present law requires, upon the request of a parent, student, or school personnel who has reason to believe that a student has a need to be tested for dyslexia, that a student be referred for testing; defines "dyslexia" for this purpose as difficulty with the alphabet, reading, reading comprehension, writing, and spelling in spite of adequate intelligence, exposure, and cultural opportunity.

Proposed law redefines "dyslexia" for all present law purposes as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader, most commonly caused by a difficulty in phonological processing, which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, and spell; provides that "phonological processing" means the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken and written language.

(Amends R.S. 17:7(11)(d)(i) and 2112(B))