



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 69** HLS 23RS 439  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action: **w/ #2 SEN COMM AMD**  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 30, 2023	4:44 PM	<b>Author:</b> MARINO
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Education		
<b>Subject:</b> Dyslexia screening		<b>Analyst:</b> Julie Silva

STUDENTS EG2 INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
 Provides for the screening of students with respect to dyslexia

Proposed legislation requires the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) select a dyslexia screener meeting certain requirements, that the screener be provided at no cost to each public school, and that such screener be administered to each student by a classroom teacher in the second half of kindergarten in Louisiana public and charter schools. It retains present law that allows for screening any time it is requested by a teacher or a parent or guardian. Effective upon appropriation of funds by the legislature.

EXPENDITURES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

There will be a significant increase in SGF expenditures due to the requirements in proposed legislation. Based on the costs detailed on page 2 of this note, it is estimated that proposed legislation will cost \$120,000 in FY 24 and costs will range beginning in FY 25 from \$355,360 to \$630,000. Note: These costs contemplate only the issuance of screeners to kindergarten students in public and charter schools. Costs will be higher depending on the number of additional students in other grades screened. This FY 25 range represents the potential impact on SGF expenditures, which was determined based on costs available on the websites of companies identified by LDE that provide dyslexia screeners which meet the requirements in proposed legislation.

In order to manage communications, implementation, training coordination, and the reporting requirements associated with the provisions of the proposed legislation, LDE reports that, beginning in FY 24, they will require one (1) additional Education Program Consultant 3 (\$72,000 salary, \$32,404.50 related benefits, \$15,089 operating expenses).

Proposed legislation requires LDE to select a dyslexia screener, with an area under the curve of 0.80 or above, and to provide this screener to each public school, at no cost. The screener must meet the following criteria: (1) be developed solely for dyslexia, (2) be evidence-based with proven, published psychometric validity, and (3) be used for the sole purpose of determining whether a student is at-risk for dyslexia. The screener will be selected through the RFP process, which, according to the State Office of Procurement, lasts approximately 12-14 months. This would allow the screener to be available for use by the start of the 2024-2025 school year. LDE has identified screeners varying in price from \$1.30 to \$9.00 per student that may meet the requirements included in proposed legislation; however, as part of the RFP process, an analysis of screeners would be required to make a determination of whether the variance requirement in proposed legislation is met. In addition to the cost of the screener itself, there are also costs associated with training teachers to administer the screeners and the procurement of support materials. These costs vary by screener.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate      Dual Referral Rules  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

*Evan Brasseaux*  
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**Evan Brasseaux**  
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

LDE has identified the Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen as one option that meets the technical specifications in proposed legislation. Based on the prices available on the company website, the initial screener can be provided at a cost of \$1.30 per student. As of 02/01/23, there are a total of 56,581 kindergartners enrolled in public and charter schools. The number of additional screeners that would be requested by parents and/or teachers is indeterminable and is not included in the following estimates. Taking the total number of kindergarten students and multiplying it by \$1.30, the LFO estimates costs of the screeners to be \$73,555. This number will be higher depending on the number of students in other grades who are assessed via screener. In addition to the costs of the initial screener, LDE will also need to consider the costs of training, staffing, and support for the screener selected. The Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen provides training at a cost of \$500 per class. Each class may have a maximum of 30 participants. There are approximately 5,153 kindergarten teachers in Louisiana public schools. Based on this, training courses would cost approximately \$85,900 (5,153/30 x \$500). The number of teachers who require training will be higher depending on the number of students in other grades who are assessed via screener. The Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen also requires the procurement of support materials, at a cost of an additional \$57.20 per school. Based on the number of public schools, 1,327, this will cost \$75,905.

Another screener identified by LDE as one that may meet the requirements of proposed legislation is the Amira screener. The Amira screener costs \$9.00 per student. At a minimum, based on the current count of kindergartners enrolled in Louisiana public and charter schools, this screener would cost an estimated \$509,229 per year. This number will be higher depending on the number of students in other grades who are assessed via screener. The Amira screener includes training and support materials at no additional cost.

Proposed legislation further requires local school systems to provide an annual report to LDE including the number of students in all grade levels identified as dyslexic. This reporting requirement is in current law (RS 17:392.1(F)) and thus should have no impact on expenditures or workloads.

There is no additional cost associated with developing criteria for a teacher to be issued a dyslexia practitioner ancillary certificate or a dyslexia therapist ancillary certificate, as these criteria are already included in statute. This requirement is being recodified for statutory organization.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
[X] 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
[ ] 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
[X] 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
[ ] 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

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