

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 391** HLS 20RS 428
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.: **REVISED**

Date: May 7, 2020	3:46 PM	Author: MARINO
Dept./Agy.: Education		Analyst: Tim Mathis
Subject: Dyslexia screening		

STUDENTS OR INCREASE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides for screening, diagnosis, and intervention with respect to students with dyslexia

Present law requires schools to screen every child in grades kindergarten through third for dyslexia and related disorders at least once. Requires the districts to provide appropriate remediation for students identified through such screenings. Requires the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop criteria for a dyslexia ancillary certificate or a dyslexia therapist ancillary certificate. Proposed law creates a dyslexia screening program administered to each student in the second half of kindergarten or upon teacher or parental request, comprised of a screener solely developed for dyslexia, evidence-based with psychometric validity, and used for the sole purpose of determining a student's at-risk status for dyslexia. Prohibits schools from using a single test score or specific number of characteristics for the diagnosis of dyslexia, and adds tests of language, reading, fluency, spelling, and intellectual ability. Requires an academic performance review and an interview with the student's parent or legal guardian. Further provides for evidence-based intervention programs. Effective August 1, 2020.

EXPENDITURES	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total						

REVENUES	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Local school districts are likely to incur significant costs to align current dyslexia screening practices with the requirements proposed by this measure.

Current law requires schools to screen for the following impediments at least once in kindergarten through third grade: dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, and factors placing students at-risk of dropping out of school. Additionally, each second and third grade student must be administered a literacy screener to identify those reading above or below grade level. Currently, the Department of Education (LDE) requires the use of one of four tests (DIBELS Next, DIBELS 8th, STEP, or STEEP) to meet the literacy screening required by law. Districts use the tests results in conjunction with other considerations such as classroom performance and family interviews as indicators for dyslexia.

The proposed legislation would require dyslexia screening to occur earlier in the second half of kindergarten. It would also prohibit the use of progress monitoring tools and require that schools use an instrument developed solely for dyslexia which is evidence-based with published psychometric validity. As such, districts will be required to purchase a new screening instrument, while maintaining existing screening instruments and processes for other impediments as required by law. **Per the LDE, districts would spend approximately \$1.7 M to purchase and administer the Shaywitz Dyslexia Screen for the 54,072 kindergarteners enrolled in public schools.** This includes the following: \$49 for digital manuals, \$1 per student for administration materials, \$1.25 per student for online scoring and reporting, and \$300 for a one-hour virtual training session. Districts would incur even greater costs if a teacher or a parent requests additional screening beyond the initial assessment.

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REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

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Staff Director

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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

Further, districts will incur indeterminable costs associated with added components to the assessment process. Upon determining a student is at risk for dyslexia, the legislation would require a core assessment for the diagnosis to include: (1) tests of language, reading, reading fluency, spelling, and intellectual ability, (2) an academic performance review, and (3) an interview with the student's parent or legal guardian. While it is unclear what tests would meet these criteria, districts will likely experience significant costs if required to conduct evaluations consisting of up to 3.5 hours of testing, written reports, and family conferences. The assessment requirements will add to the existing workload for appraisal staff and may increase the staffing needs.

Based on feedback from district pupil appraisal professionals, the proposed legislation may require schools to make a diagnosis, which is not the current practice. This could increase district liability and require increased staffing needs for qualified professionals. Further, screening all students in kindergarten could have an unintended consequence of misidentifying children who may suffer from dyslexia, either due to the maturity level of the child or socioeconomic conditions, resulting in additional levels of assessment and intervention than would otherwise be unnecessary.

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}

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