

Date:

(Filing No. H- )

**EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
127TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 163, L.D. 231, Bill, “An Act To Ensure That Schoolchildren with Dyslexia Receive the Assistance Needed”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4710-B** is enacted to read:

**§4710-B. Dyslexia screening**

**1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Alphabet knowledge" means the ability to name, distinguish shapes of, write and identify the sounds of the letters of the alphabet.

B. "Decoding" means the ability to apply knowledge of letter-sound relationships.

C. "Dyslexia" means a condition that is neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities that typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and in relation to the provision of effective classroom instruction; the secondary consequences of dyslexia may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

D. "Encoding" means the ability to put ideas into messages to be delivered to and understood by other people.

E. "Phonological and phonemic awareness" means awareness of the phonological structure of words.

F. "Rapid naming" means the ability to connect visual and verbal information by giving appropriate names to common objects, colors, letters and digits.

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1 G. "Sound-symbol recognition" means the ability to understand the relationship  
2 between symbols or combinations of symbols and the sounds they make.

3 **2. Dyslexia screening.** Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, a school  
4 administrative unit shall screen for dyslexia students from kindergarten to grade 2 who  
5 have difficulty, as identified by a classroom teacher, in an area described in paragraphs A  
6 to F. The screening of a student must include an examination of the student's:

7 A. Phonological and phonemic awareness;

8 B. Sound-symbol recognition;

9 C. Alphabet knowledge;

10 D. Decoding skills;

11 E. Rapid naming skills; and

12 F. Encoding skills.

13 **3. Dyslexia coordinator.** There is created within the department the position of  
14 dyslexia coordinator to assist the department in complying with the provisions of this  
15 section and the general education interventions required in the department's special  
16 education rules as they pertain to students struggling with reading or showing early  
17 indicators of reading difficulty. The dyslexia coordinator must have a background in  
18 reading and language difficulties, including dyslexia, and in language and literacy. The  
19 dyslexia coordinator shall develop before March 1, 2016 and update annually thereafter a  
20 plan that:

21 A. Implements dyslexia awareness training for teachers;

22 B. Implements professional development in evidence-based screening practices; and

23 C. Identifies needs of school administrative units for implementing evidence-based  
24 practices and response to scientific, research-based intervention strategies for reading  
25 and language-based learning difficulties.

26 **Sec. 2. Appointment of dyslexia coordinator.** The Commissioner of  
27 Education shall hire a dyslexia coordinator pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title  
28 20-A, section 4710-B by October 1, 2015.

29 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
30 allocations are made.

31 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

32 **Special Services Team Z080**

33 Initiative: Provides funds for one Education Specialist III position to serve as a dyslexia  
34 coordinator within the Department of Education.

35	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
36	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
37	Personal Services	\$63,038	\$90,628

1	All Other	\$9,966	\$11,165
2			
3	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$73,004</u>	<u>\$101,793</u>
4			

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This amendment replaces the bill. It defines "dyslexia" and requires school  
7 administrative units to screen for dyslexia only those students from kindergarten to grade  
8 2 who have certain difficulties, as noted by a classroom teacher, beginning in the 2016-  
9 2017 school year. It also requires the Department of Education to hire a dyslexia  
10 coordinator by October 1, 2015 and describes the dyslexia coordinator's duties. The  
11 amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section.

12 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

13 **(See attached)**