

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

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

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

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

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

- 12 1. The board shall ensure a candidate for teacher licensure demonstrates competencies
13 in beginning reading instruction based on scientifically and research-based best
14 practices. Competencies must include the acquisition of knowledge of the essential
15 components of beginning reading instruction, including:
- 16 a. Phonemic awareness;
 - 17 b. Phonics;
 - 18 c. Fluency;
 - 19 d. Vocabulary;
 - 20 e. Comprehension;
 - 21 f. How to assess student reading ability; and
 - 22 g. How to identify and correct reading difficulties.

- 1 2. A kindergarten through grade three initial teacher licensure candidate must provide
2 evidence that the candidate meets the competency standards of the components
3 under subsection 1.
- 4 3. A teacher licensure candidate satisfies the requirements of this section if the candidate
5 demonstrates the candidate has received training in competencies related to reading
6 instruction from an accredited or approved program, or demonstrates mastery of the
7 topics provided under subsection 1. The board may issue a provisional license for up
8 to two years to a teacher licensure candidate who does not meet the requirements of
9 this section.

10 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-32-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **15.1-32-26. Dyslexia screening and intervention –Pilot program - Report to legislative**
13 **management - Professional development.**

- 14 1. For purposes of this section:
- 15 a. "Dyslexia" means a specific learning disability that is ~~neurological~~neurobiological
16 in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent recognition of
17 words and poor spelling and decoding abilities, independent of the individual's
18 general intelligence level.
- 19 b. "Specialist trained in dyslexia characteristics" means an individual who:
- 20 (1) Has expertise providing training in phonological and phonemic awareness,
21 sound and symbol relationships, alphabet knowledge, rapid naming skills,
22 and encoding and decoding skills; and
- 23 (2) ~~Is fluent in the dyslexia intervention process;~~ and
- 24 (3) Has training in identifying dyslexia characteristics and intervention
25 processes from an approved provider on a list maintained by the
26 superintendent of public instruction.
- 27 2. ~~Beginning with the 2019-20 school year and continuing through the 2022-23 school~~
28 ~~year, the~~The superintendent of public instruction shall establish and operate a pilot
29 ~~program to provide guidance and recommendations regarding proven strategies and~~
30 early screening and intervention services for children with risk factors for dyslexia
31 characteristics, including low phonemic awareness.

- 1 3. ~~To be eligible to participate in the program, a~~Each school district, regional education-
2 association, or special education unit must submit an application to the superintendent
3 whichshall:
- 4 a. ~~Identifies a method of screening children for low phonemic awareness and other~~
5 risk factors for dyslexia;
- 6 b. ~~Provides for the enrollment of children identified as having risk factors for~~
7 dyslexia in a reading program staffed by specialists trained in dyslexia and
8 multisensory structured language programs; and
- 9 c. ~~Includes a methodology for evaluating the effects of the reading program on the~~
10 identified risk factors of the child.
- 11 4. ~~Each grantee selected to participate in the program shall:~~
- 12 a. ~~Provide low phonemic awareness and other dyslexia risk factor screenings for~~
13 children under seven years of age through a reading program established under
14 subsection 3; For enrolled children seven years of age and younger, provide a
15 universal screening for dyslexia including core components of phonemic
16 awareness, decoding, and spelling, which must be approved by the
17 superintendent of public instruction and which must be developed and overseen
18 by a specialist trained in dyslexia characteristics;
- 19 b. Include a process to further evaluate identified risk factors;
- 20 c. Describe the intervention services for the identified dyslexia risk factors;
- 21 ~~b.d.~~ Provide reading intervention services to students identified as having
22 dyslexiawith dyslexia characteristics;
- 23 ~~e.e.~~ Administer assessments, approved by the superintendent of public instruction, to
24 determine the effectiveness of the ~~program~~intervention services in improving the
25 reading and learning skills of children ~~enrolled in the program~~the child; and
- 26 ~~d.f.~~ Provide professional development on dyslexia ~~identification~~characteristics and
27 interventions to ~~grant participants~~kindergarten through grade three personnel of
28 the school district and special education unit. Professional development must
29 meet the requirements for continuing education credits for license renewal.
- 30 4. A school district or special education unit shall provide an assessment under
31 subdivision a of subsection 3 upon request by a parent, legal guardian, or teacher.

1 5. ~~The board of each participating grantee shall report annually to the superintendent of~~
2 ~~public instruction regarding the operation, results, and effectiveness of the pilot~~
3 ~~program in a manner prescribed by the superintendent. Before July 1, 2021~~2024, the
4 superintendent of public instruction shall ~~compile the information and~~provide a report
5 to the legislative management ~~with a recommendation whether to continue the pilot~~
6 ~~program beyond the 2022-23 school year~~regarding dyslexia screening and
7 intervention under this section.

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

9 **SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - LITERACY AND DYSLEXIA -**

10 **STATUTORY REVIEW.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider
11 studying provisions of the North Dakota Century Code relating to literacy, dyslexia, and related
12 teacher training. The study must include a review of the pilot program established under section
13 15.1-32-36. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations,
14 together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth
15 legislative assembly.

16 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 1 of this Act becomes effective on January 1,
17 2025.