

STATE OF NEW YORK

441--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sens. HOYLMAN, HINCHEY, JACKSON, MYRIE, SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a dyslexia task force

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 4407-a
2 to read as follows:

3 § 4407-a. Dyslexia; task force. 1. The task force on dyslexia is here-
4 by created within the department to provide recommendations for appro-
5 priate screening of students for dyslexia and related disorders, appro-
6 priate interventions and classroom support for students with dyslexia
7 and related disorders, and to recommend resources for educators, staff
8 and administrators to better help students with dyslexia.

9 2. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have
10 the following meanings:

11 (a) The term "dyslexia" shall mean an unexpected difficulty in reading
12 for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader,
13 most commonly caused by a difficulty in the phonological processing, the
14 appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken language, which affects
15 the ability of an individual to speak, read, and spell.

16 (b) The term "related disorders" shall mean disorders similar to or
17 related to dyslexia including, but not limited to, developmental audito-
18 ry imperception, dysphasia, specific developmental dyslexia, develop-
19 mental dysgraphia, and developmental spelling disability.

20 3. (a) The task force shall consist of thirteen members as follows:
21 (i) the commissioner of education or his or her designee who shall serve
22 as chair; (ii) the chancellor of the board of regents or his or her

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD02478-04-1

1 designee who shall serve as vice chair; (iii) three members appointed by
2 the governor; (iv) three members appointed by the temporary president of
3 the senate; (v) three members appointed by the speaker of the assembly;
4 (vi) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate; (vii)
5 and one member appointed by the minority leader of the assembly.
6 Members shall have experience in dyslexia and may include physicians,
7 scientists, educators who work with dyslexic students, and parents of
8 children with dyslexia. Vacancies in the task force shall be filled in
9 the manner provided for original appointments.

10 (b) Appointments to the task force shall be made within ninety days of
11 the effective date of this section. The task force may begin its duties
12 when a majority of the total number of positions have been appointed.
13 Members of the task force shall receive no compensation.

14 4. The task force shall have the following duties:

15 (a) Review the number of students in New York state that have dyslexia
16 or related disorder;

17 (b) Study and evaluate current screening programs used in New York
18 state and nationally to identify dyslexia or related disorders in
19 students;

20 (c) Study and evaluate evidence-based intervention and classroom
21 support services for students who have dyslexia or related disorders;

22 (d) Provide recommendations for appropriate evidence-based screening
23 programs, intervention services and classroom support for students with
24 dyslexia and related disorders; and

25 (e) Evaluate and recommend the anticipated staffing needs and profes-
26 sional development needs for staff, including certified classroom teach-
27 ers, reading and literacy specialists, multi-lingual teachers, and
28 school administrators in relation to screening to identify students in
29 need of instructional support services in the area of dyslexia and
30 related disorders.

31 5. The task force shall issue a report to the governor, temporary
32 president of the senate and speaker of the assembly of its findings,
33 conclusions, and recommendations, including any legislative proposals,
34 no later than one year after the effective date of this section.

35 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.