

STATE OF NEW YORK

2185--B

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 14, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. CARROLL, COLTON, SEAWRIGHT, SIMON, DINOWITZ, LUPARDO, WILLIAMS, DICKENS, GRIFFIN, ABINANTI, EPSTEIN, SAYEGH, JONES, RA, TAYLOR, DAVILA, McMAHON, REYES, JEAN-PIERRE, ASHBY, FALL, ENGLE-BRIGHT, ANDERSON, JACKSON, McDONALD, OTIS, WALSH -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK, FRONTUS, HYNDMAN, SILLITTI, THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Education in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- reported and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT in relation to establishing a dyslexia and dysgraphia task force; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. Dyslexia and dysgraphia task force. 1. The commissioner of
2 education shall establish a task force to examine appropriate and effective
3 evidence-based dyslexia and dysgraphia screening methods, reading
4 interventions, and other educational supports for students in kindergarten
5 through grade five. The task force shall consist of at least ten
6 members, including the commissioner of education or their designee, who
7 shall serve as chair of the task force. The remaining members shall be
8 appointed by the commissioner of education in such a manner to ensure
9 that all regions of the state are represented, and shall include: (a) at
10 least two members who specialize in identifying, evaluating, and diagnosing
11 individuals with dyslexia or dysgraphia; (b) at least one member
12 who specializes in educating individuals with dyslexia or dysgraphia;
13 (c) at least one member who is a parent of a student with dyslexia or
14 dysgraphia; (d) at least one member with dyslexia or dysgraphia; (e) at
15 least one member from an institute of higher education who is an expert

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

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1 in dyslexia or dysgraphia; and (f) at least one member who is a public
2 school teacher who specializes in teaching literacy and evidence-based
3 reading instruction. All members shall have expertise in fields or
4 disciplines related to the identification of students with learning
5 disabilities including the unique educational needs of students with
6 dyslexia or dysgraphia.

7 2. The task force shall conduct at least two public hearings for the
8 purpose of obtaining information from stakeholders and other interested
9 parties including but not limited to speech pathologists, reading
10 specialists, teachers, school administrators, and parents.

11 3. The task force shall prepare and submit a report of its findings
12 and recommendations to the governor, temporary president of the senate
13 and speaker of the assembly eighteen months after the effective date of
14 this act.

15 4. For the purposes of this act, the term "screening methods" may
16 include examining the use and frequency of dyslexia or dysgraphia
17 screeners that are valid, reliable, low cost, and developmentally appro-
18 priate that measure deficits in areas including: (a) phonological aware-
19 ness; (b) phonological or language-based memory; (c) rapid automatic
20 naming; (d) receptive vocabulary; (e) phonics skills; (f) decoding and
21 encoding real and pseudo-words; (g) oral reading fluency; and (h) writ-
22 ing at the sentence and paragraph level. Such screeners shall be inclu-
23 sive of students with diverse racial, linguistic, and socio-economic
24 backgrounds, and factor familial history.

25 § 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2023 and shall expire and
26 be deemed repealed August 1, 2024.