

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1645--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 17, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. SIMON, TAYLOR, FORREST, COLTON, KELLES, SHIMSKY, GLICK -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CRUZ, DICKENS, EPSTEIN, HUNTER, LUPARDO, RA, REYES, SAYEGH, THIELE, WEPRIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Correction -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to a reading proficiency level assessment and dyslexia screening for incarcerated individuals

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

Section 1. The correction law is amended by adding a new section 137-a to read as follows:

§ 137-a. Reading proficiency level assessment and dyslexia screening.  
1. As part of the intake process, an incarcerated individual who does not have a high school diploma or its equivalent shall receive a reading proficiency level assessment and dyslexia screening administered by the department, provided however, nothing in this section shall preclude the incarcerated individual from completing a department-provided screening that is intended to be self-administered. If an incarcerated individual demonstrates that he or she is below the proficiency level required to be a high-functioning reader, such individual shall be provided with dyslexia intervention that is evidence-based, effective, and consistent with science-based research specifically tailored to addressing dyslexia.

2. The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of education, shall promulgate rules and regulations that require, but are not limited to the following:

(a) Teachers at all correctional facilities shall have and demonstrate awareness of the best practices of scientific reading instruction;

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

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1 (b) Each incarcerated individual who does not have a high school  
2 diploma or its equivalent shall receive a reading proficiency level  
3 assessment and a dyslexia screening; and

4 (c) A process be established in which incarcerated individuals, upon  
5 intake, are assessed and administered a dyslexia screening by the  
6 department, and provided with dyslexia intervention by the department  
7 that is evidence-based, effective, and consistent with science-based  
8 research specifically tailored to addressing dyslexia. The department  
9 shall ensure that such intervention services are provided by licensed  
10 professionals in permanent competitive positions in the classified  
11 service employed by the department.

12 3. Each superintendent shall submit a plan to the department that  
13 allows incarcerated individuals to voluntarily receive a reading profi-  
14 ciency level assessment, dyslexia screening, and reading instruction  
15 that is evidence-based, effective, and consistent with science-based  
16 research specifically tailored to addressing dyslexia.

17 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
18 have become a law. Effective immediately the addition, amendment and/or  
19 repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of  
20 this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed  
21 on or before such date.