STATE OF NEW YORK

2304--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 19, 2023

Introduced by Sens. MYRIE, ASHBY, BROUK, CLEARE, COMRIE, GOUNARDES, HOYLMAN-SIGAL, JACKSON, KRUEGER, RIVERA, SALAZAR, SKOUFIS, STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- 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.

LBD01960-03-3

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

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

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

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