# First Regular Session Seventy-second General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

## **INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 19-0292.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**HOUSE BILL 19-1134** 

#### **HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

Buckner and Wilson,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Todd,

# **House Committees**

#### **Senate Committees**

Education

### A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING RESEARCHING EFFECTIVE METHODS FOR ASSISTING
102 EARLY-GRADE STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA.

## **Bill Summary**

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <a href="http://leg.colorado.gov">http://leg.colorado.gov</a>.)

The bill directs the commissioner of education (commissioner) to convene a working group to analyze state and national data and practices concerning identification and support of students with dyslexia and to recommend dyslexia screening tools and processes, a statewide plan for identifying and supporting students with dyslexia, and educator training in recognizing and providing interventions for students with dyslexia. The

working group must submit a report of its recommendations to the commissioner, and the commissioner must submit the report to the state board of education and the education committees of the general assembly.

The bill directs the department of education (department) to establish a pilot program to assist school districts, boards of cooperative services, and charter schools (local education providers) in using READ act assessments to screen for dyslexia and in providing interventions for students who are identified as having dyslexia. At the completion of the pilot program, the department must evaluate the effectiveness of the screening and interventions, refine the resources used, and disseminate the resources used to all local education providers in the state. The department must also provide technical assistance in implementing the resources at the request of a local education provider.

The bill directs the commissioner to provide a dyslexia specialist to support the working group and the pilot program and to develop training materials related to dyslexia.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 20.5 to title 22 as follows:

4 ARTICLE 20.5

### **Education of Children with Dyslexia**

22-20.5-101. Legislative declaration. (1) The General Assembly finds that various educational advocacy groups, including parents of children identified as having dyslexia, have voiced concerns related to the adequacy and effectiveness of the methods and tools for identifying students who have dyslexia and the adequacy of the educational supports for these students. While there have been various efforts at both the state and school district levels to address the issues related to effective identification and support for students with dyslexia, these efforts have not resulted in significant progress in educating these students. Therefore, the general

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1	ASSEMBLY, RECOGNIZING THE OBLIGATION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO
2	TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL CHILDREN THAT WILL
3	ENABLE THEM TO LEAD FULFILLING AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES, FINDS THAT
4	IT IS NECESSARY TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP OF PARENTS AND
5	EDUCATIONAL EXPERTS TO REVIEW THE WORK OF EDUCATIONAL EXPERTS
6	AND LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN COLORADO AND IN OTHER STATES
7	IN THE AREA OF IDENTIFICATION OF AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR
8	STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA AND TO USE THEIR FINDINGS TO INFORM FUTURE
9	EFFORTS BY THE STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO IDENTIFY
10	AND EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA.
11	(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS THAT A PILOT
12	PROGRAM THROUGH WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WORKS WITH
13	A GROUP OF VOLUNTEER LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO USE EARLY
14	LITERACY ASSESSMENT RESULTS TO IDENTIFY MARKERS OF DYSLEXIA AND
15	PROVIDE SUPPORT TO YOUNG STUDENTS WHO MAY DEMONSTRATE THE
16	EARLY MARKERS FOR DYSLEXIA WILL STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF LOCAL
17	EDUCATION PROVIDERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO IDENTIFY AND
18	EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA.
19	22-20.5-102. Definitions. As used in this article 20.5, unless
20	THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:
21	(1) "COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION" OR "COMMISSIONER" MEANS
22	THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION CREATED AND EXISTING
23	PURSUANT TO SECTION 1 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.
24	(2) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
25	CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-115.
26	(3) "DYSLEXIA" MEANS A SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY THAT IS
27	NEUROBIOLOGICAL IN ORIGIN AND CHARACTERIZED BY DIFFICULTIES WITH

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ACCURATE AND FLUENT WORD RECOGNITION AND BY POOR SPELLING AND
DECODING ABILITIES, WHICH DIFFICULTIES TYPICALLY RESULT FROM A
DEFICIT IN THE PHONOLOGICAL COMPONENT OF LANGUAGE THAT IS OFTEN
UNEXPECTED IN RELATION TO OTHER COGNITIVE ABILITIES AND THE
PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION. THE SECONDARY
CONSEQUENCES OF DYSLEXIA MAY INCLUDE PROBLEMS IN READING
COMPREHENSION AND REDUCED READING EXPERIENCE THAT MAY IMPEDE
GROWTH OF VOCABULARY AND BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE.
(4) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A
BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF
THIS TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES A PUBLIC SCHOOL, A CHARTER SCHOOL
${\tt AUTHORIZEDBYASCHOOLDISTRICTPURSUANTTOPART1OFARTICLE30.5}$
OF THIS TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE
CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF
THIS TITLE 22, OR THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED
IN SECTION 22-30.5-503.
(5) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE PILOT PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY
MARKERS OF DYSLEXIA AND ENABLE EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS
OPERATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-20.5-105.
(6) "RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN
COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS RURAL, BASED ON THE

(6) "RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS RURAL, BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DISTANCE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE NEAREST LARGE, URBANIZED AREA.

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- (7) "SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ENROLLS FEWER THAN ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE.
- 27 (8) "Working group" means the working group for

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1	IDENTIFICATION OF AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH
2	DYSLEXIA CONVENED BY THE COMMISSIONER PURSUANT TO SECTION
3	22-20.5-103.
4	22-20.5-103. Working group for identification of and
5	educational support for students with dyslexia - convened - duties -
6	report - repeal. (1) THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SHALL CONVENE
7	A WORKING GROUP FOR IDENTIFICATION OF AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT
8	FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA TO REVIEW DATA CONCERNING THE
9	IDENTIFICATION OF AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH
10	DYSLEXIA AND EFFORTS IN COLORADO AND OTHER STATES TO IMPROVE
11	EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA. IN CONVENING
12	THE WORKING GROUP, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL APPOINT THE FOLLOWING
13	MEMBERS:
14	(a) A PARENT OF A CHILD WHO IS IDENTIFIED AS HAVING DYSLEXIA;
15	(b) A PARENT OF A CHILD WHO IS IDENTIFIED AS HAVING DYSLEXIA
16	AND A DISABILITY;
17	(c) A SCHOOL DISTRICT LITERACY SPECIALIST;
18	(d) A SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION;
19	(e) A STATE OR NATIONAL LITERACY EXPERT;
20	(f) A STATE OR NATIONAL DYSLEXIA EXPERT;
21	(g) TWO ELEMENTARY GRADE TEACHERS, ONE OF WHOM TEACHES
22	IN A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT;
23	(h) A PRINCIPAL WHO IS EMPLOYED AT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
24	IN A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OR AN EMPLOYEE OF A BOARD OF
25	COOPERATIVE SERVICES, CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE
26	22, WHO HAS EXPERTISE AS A LITERACY SPECIALIST; AND
27	(i) A FACULTY MEMBER OF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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2	ELEMENTARY GRADE TEACHERS.
3	(2) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL:
4	(a) ANALYZE CURRENT NATIONAL AND STATEWIDE DATA RELATED
5	TO STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS HAVING DYSLEXIA, INCLUDING BUT NOT
6	LIMITED TO IDENTIFICATION RATES AND ACHIEVEMENT RATES;
7	(b) ANALYZE THE IMPLEMENTATION AND DEMONSTRATED
8	EFFECTIVENESS IN OTHER STATES OF STATEWIDE LEGISLATION FOR
9	DYSLEXIA SCREENING, EDUCATOR TRAINING, AND OTHER
10	DYSLEXIA-RELATED LAWS;
11	(c) IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE DYSLEXIA
12	SCREENING TOOLS AND PROCESSES AS WELL AS COMPREHENSIVE
13	ASSESSMENTS THAT ADDRESS THE RECOGNIZED CHALLENGES OF
14	DYSLEXIA, INCLUDING PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSING, PHONEMIC
15	AWARENESS, AND DECODING AND ENCODING SKILLS;
16	(d) IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND A STATEWIDE PLAN FOR
17	SUPPORTING STUDENTS WHO ARE IDENTIFIED AS HAVING DYSLEXIA,
18	INCLUDING SPECIFIC INTERVENTION STRUCTURES AND THEIR COMPONENTS,
19	WHICH MUST INCLUDE EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS,
20	PROGRESS-MONITORING SYSTEMS, AND DATA-COLLECTION SYSTEMS. THE
21	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A STATEWIDE PLAN MUST CONSIDER LEGAL
22	REQUIREMENTS INCLUDED IN THE "COLORADO READ ACT", PART 12 OF
23	ARTICLE 7 OF THIS TITLE 22, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES; THE
24	"Exceptional Children's Educational Act", article 20 of this
25	TITLE 22, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES; THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS
26	WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS
27	AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; AND SECTION 504 OF
_ ,	AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS, AND SECTION 304 OF

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WHO TEACHES IN AN APPROVED EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM FOR

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- 1 THE FEDERAL "REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET 2 SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.
- 3 IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND COMPONENTS OF DYSLEXIA 4 AWARENESS TRAINING FOR COLORADO EDUCATORS, INCLUDING THE 5 CONTENT, TARGET AUDIENCE, TIME FRAME FOR TRAINING, AND PROJECTED 6 COST;

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- (f) IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND EDUCATOR TRAINING FOR IN-STATE APPROVED PROGRAMS OF PREPARATION FOR TEACHERS AND ALTERNATIVE 9 TEACHER PROGRAMS AND RECOMMENDED TRAINING FOR CURRENT EDUCATORS, BASED ON EFFECTIVE PRACTICES IN OTHER STATES, AS WELL AS RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STATE AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS 12 FOCUSING ON LITERACY. THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING 13 EDUCATOR TRAINING MAY INCLUDE THE CONTENT, TARGET AUDIENCE, TIME FRAME FOR TRAINING, AND PROJECTED COST.
  - PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT (g) CONCERNING THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.
  - (3) IN COMPLETING THE DUTIES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS (2)(c) TO (2)(g) OF THIS SECTION, THE WORKING GROUP SHALL ANALYZE AND INTEGRATE, AS APPROPRIATE, THE WORK AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF OTHER PREVIOUS AND ONGOING STATE INITIATIVES RELATED TO IMPROVING THE IDENTIFICATION AND SUPPORT OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE DYSLEXIA.
  - (4) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER BY JULY 1, 2020, AND BY JULY 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER. ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT, WITH ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR

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1	LEGISLATION, TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE EDUCATION
2	COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR
3	ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN
4	SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT THE REPORT
5	SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION (4) CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.
6	(5) This section is repealed, effective September 1, 2029.
7	BEFORE THE REPEAL, THE WORKING GROUP IS SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW IN
8	ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-3-1203.
9	22-20.5-104. Department - dyslexia support. The
10	COMMISSIONER SHALL ENSURE THAT THE DIVISION WITHIN THE
11	DEPARTMENT THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LITERACY AND EXCEPTIONAL
12	STUDENT SERVICES INCLUDES A PERSON WHO IS A DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST.
13	AT A MINIMUM, THE DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT
14	FOR THE WORKING GROUP, ASSIST IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE
15	PILOT PROGRAM, AND DEVELOP EDUCATOR TRAINING MATERIALS
16	RELATING TO DYSLEXIA.
17	22-20.5-105. Pilot program - dyslexia markers - effective
18	interventions - created - evaluation report - repeal. (1) Beginning in
19	THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT A PILOT
20	PROGRAM TO DEVELOP AND PILOT SCREENING AND DIAGNOSTIC PROCESSES
21	AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES FOR EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF AND
22	SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD
23	GRADE WHO MAY HAVE DYSLEXIA. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT
24	WITH THE WORKING GROUP CONCERNING THE DESIGN AND
25	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
26	PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PILOT PROGRAM TO LOCAL
27	EDUCATION PROVIDERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND SELECT UP TO FIVE

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1	LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS WHO VOLUNTEER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
2	PILOT PROGRAM. IN SELECTING THE PARTICIPATING LOCAL EDUCATION
3	PROVIDERS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENSURE TO THE EXTENT
4	PRACTICABLE THAT THE AFFECTED STUDENT POPULATIONS ARE
5	REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY WITHIN THE STATE
6	AND THAT THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT
7	THE STATE. THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE
8	PILOT PROGRAM WILL WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO USE THE RESULTS
9	OBTAINED FROM ASSESSMENTS ADMINISTERED PURSUANT TO THE
10	"COLORADO READ ACT", PART 12 OF ARTICLE 7 OF THIS TITLE 22, IN A
11	RESEARCH-BASED PROCESS TO IDENTIFY MARKERS OF DYSLEXIA AND
12	PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG READERS WHO MAY EXHIBIT THE MARKERS
13	FOR DYSLEXIA.
14	(2) IN IMPLEMENTING THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT
15	SHALL:
16	(a) PROVIDE TARGETED SUPPORT FOR EDUCATORS EMPLOYED BY
17	THE PARTICIPATING LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN UNDERSTANDING
18	THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF YOUNG STUDENTS WHO ARE AT RISK FOR READING
19	DELAYS RELATED TO DYSLEXIA;
20	(b) ASSIST THE PARTICIPATING LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN
21	IMPLEMENTING A DYSLEXIA IDENTIFICATION PROCESS THAT USES THE
22	READ ACT INTERIM ASSESSMENT AS A SCREENING TOOL AND USES A
23	RESEARCH-BASED DIAGNOSTIC PROCESS TO USE THE RESULTS OF THE
24	ASSESSMENTS TO IDENTIFY THE PRESENCE OF DYSLEXIA; AND
25	(c) SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATING LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN
26	PAIRING ASSESSMENT PROCESSES WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF
27	RESEARCH-BASED INSTRUCTIONAL AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES TO

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1	PROVIDE TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AT RISK FOR
2	IDENTIFICATION OF DYSLEXIA.
3	(3) At the end of the $2022-23$ school year, the department
4	SHALL EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM AND THE
5	EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STRATEGIES IN IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING
6	MORE STUDENTS IN THE PARTICIPATING LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS
7	THAN WERE IDENTIFIED AND SUPPORTED IN NONPARTICIPATING LOCAL
8	EDUCATION PROVIDERS. BASED ON THE EVALUATION, THE DEPARTMENT
9	SHALL REFINE THE RESOURCES FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT, IDENTIFICATION,
10	AND INTERVENTIONS, AS NECESSARY, AND DISSEMINATE THE RESOURCES
11	TO ALL LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN THE STATE. UPON REQUEST, THE
12	DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO PROVIDE THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT NECESSARY
13	TO EFFECTIVELY USE THE RESOURCES.
14	(4) On or before December 31, 2023, the department shall
15	SUBMIT TO THE STATE BOARD AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE
16	SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
17	COMMITTEES, A REPORT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND
18	EVALUATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM. THE REPORT MAY INCLUDE IN THE
19	REPORT ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION THAT THE
20	DEPARTMENT DEEMS NECESSARY BASED ON THE EVALUATION OF THE
21	PILOT PROGRAM.
22	(5) This section is repealed, effective July 1, 2024.
23	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, add (20)
24	as follows:
25	2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees - legislative
26	declaration - definition - repeal. (20) (a) The following statutory
27	AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE DESIGNATED ADVISORY COMMITTEES WILL

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1	REPEAL ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2029:
2	(I) THE WORKING GROUP FOR IDENTIFICATION OF AND
3	EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA CREATED IN
4	SECTION 22-20.5-103.
5	(b) This subsection (20) is repealed, effective September 1,
6	2031.
7	<b>SECTION 3. Safety clause.</b> The general assembly hereby finds,
8	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate

preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

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