

2015 -- H 5582

=====
LC001416
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - RHODE ISLAND VISION EDUCATION AND SERVICES
PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representatives Lombardi, Amore, Hull, McKiernan, and Williams

Date Introduced: February 25, 2015

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 Section 1. Chapter 16-26.1 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Vision Education
2 and Services Program" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-26.1-6. Dyslexia regulations to be adopted. -- (a) Findings of fact. The general**
4 **assembly finds and declares as follows:**

5 (1) Dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed;

6 (2) Dyslexia adversely affects a child's educational performance;

7 (3) Dyslexia is highly prevalent, affecting one out of five (5) individuals in some form,
8 and is persistent;

9 (4) Dyslexia is a paradox, so that often the same individual who has a weakness in
10 decoding or reading fluency also has strengths in higher level cognitive functions such as
11 reasoning, critical thinking, concept formation, and problem solving;

12 (5) Great progress has been made in understanding dyslexia at a scientific level,
13 including its epidemiology, and cognitive and neurobiological bases; and

14 (6) The diagnosis of dyslexia is critical, and must lead to focused, evidence-based
15 interventions, necessary accommodations, self-awareness, self-empowerment, and school and life
16 success.

17 (b) Regulations incorporating a definition of dyslexia.

18 (1) The state council on elementary and secondary education shall promulgate rules and

1 regulations that incorporate the definition of dyslexia that is set forth in subsection (b)(2) of this
2 section, as well as the findings set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

3 (2) For purposes of this section, "dyslexia" shall be defined as an unexpected difficulty
4 in reading and spelling in an individual who has normal intelligence. Dyslexia reflects difficulty
5 in phonological processing (understanding the sounds of spoken language), which typically
6 impacts speaking, reading, spelling, and often, learning a second language.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC001416
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - RHODE ISLAND VISION EDUCATION AND SERVICES
PROGRAM

1 This act would make certain findings about dyslexia and would establish a definition of
2 "dyslexia". This act would also direct the council on elementary and secondary education to
3 promulgate rules and regulations to incorporate this definition and findings.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC001416
=====