

2021 -- H 5840

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LC001085  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA AND  
RELATED DISORDERS

Introduced By: Representatives Quattrocchi, Place, Filippi, Nardone, and Price

Date Introduced: February 24, 2021

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-67.2 of the General Laws entitled "Education of Children with  
2 Dyslexia and Related Disorders" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-67.2-6. Orton-Gillingham certified schools.**

4 (a) This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "Emerson's Law," in recognition of  
5 Emerson Stone, a dyslexic child from Rhode Island.

6 (b) Any school within any school district that establishes a certified program using the  
7 phonics-based method called Orton-Gillingham or if any school shall, prior to January 1, 2026,  
8 employ an Orton-Gillingham certified instructor, the school's programs shall be made available to  
9 any pupil in the state diagnosed with dyslexia, dyscalculia, or dysgraphia.

10 (c) The cost for out-of-district students shall be reimbursed by the school district from  
11 which the pupil resides and the cost for any out-of-district student choosing to attend the Orton-  
12 Gillingham certified school shall be determined by the commissioner using the Rhode Island  
13 uniform chart of accounts (UCOA) and supporting data from the National Center of Education  
14 Statistics (NCES).

15 (d) The costs associated with attending an Orton-Gillingham certified school shall be  
16 updated every three (3) years using the same criteria as in subsection (c) of this section.

17 (e) The commissioner is authorized to receive and shall direct any and all available federal  
18 funds, grants or other available funding toward the development of Orton-Gillingham certified

1 [schools pursuant to this section.](#)

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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- 1           This act would provide that if a school district established an Orton-Gillingham certified
- 2 school, the program would be available to all students statewide who qualify.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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