



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Jennifer Stump

Am. H.B. 157

129th General Assembly
(As Passed by the House)

Reps. Schuring and Letson, Derickson, Hall, Combs, Stebelton, Yuko, Hollington, Fende, Antonio, J. Adams, R. Adams, Anielski, Barnes, Beck, Boose, Brenner, Bubb, Buchy, Budish, Carney, Celeste, Dovilla, Driehaus, Fedor, Gardner, Garland, Gentile, Gerberry, Goyal, Hackett, C. Hagan, R. Hagan, Heard, Henne, Hottinger, Kozlowski, Luckie, Lundy, Mallory, McClain, Mecklenborg, Milkovich, Murray, Newbold, O'Brien, Okey, Patmon, Peterson, Pillich, Ramos, Reece, Roegner, Ruhl, Slaby, Slesnick, Stinziano, Weddington, Williams, Winburn, Young, Batchelder

BILL SUMMARY

- Permits an educational service center (ESC) to engage the services of a "dyslexia specialist" to provide training for K-4 teachers in school districts and other public schools that contract with the ESC for training services on (1) the indicators of dyslexia and (2) the types of instruction that children with dyslexia need.
- Permits groups of local school districts within an ESC's territory to engage the services of a dyslexia specialist if the ESC does not provide the training.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Professional development on dyslexia

The bill permits educational service centers (ESCs) to provide teacher professional development on dyslexia. Though current law does not expressly prohibit this now, the bill expressly authorizes ESCs to engage the services of a dyslexia specialist to provide training for teachers of grades K through 4 on the indicators of dyslexia and the types of instruction that children with dyslexia need to learn, read, write, and spell. ESCs that provide this service must make the training available to

local school districts within the ESC's service territory and to other school districts, community schools, and STEM schools that have contracted with the ESC for training.¹

The bill specifies that if an ESC does not provide this service, groups of local school districts within that ESC's territory may engage the services of a dyslexia specialist to train teachers independently. Current law does not expressly prohibit school districts from engaging the services of a dyslexia specialist to train teachers. However, under the bill, it might be construed that local school districts may only engage these services independently if ESCs do not provide them.²

Finally, the bill permits a school district or school to require the dyslexia training for its teachers as part of its regular in-service training programs.

Definitions

The bill defines "dyslexia" as a specific neurological learning disorder that is characterized by unexpected difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities not consistent with the person's intelligence, motivation, and sensory capabilities, which typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language. A "dyslexia specialist" is a person who is trained and certified in a multisensory structured language program that meets the level II specialist criteria set by the International Dyslexia Association's Knowledge and Practice Standards³ or standards from any other nationally recognized organization that specializes in issues surrounding dyslexia.⁴

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-15-11
Reported, H. Education	06-09-11
Passed House (97-0)	06-22-11

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¹ R.C. 3319.80(A). See also R.C. 3313.843, 3313.844, 3313.845, and 3326.45, none in the bill.

² R.C. 3319.80(A).

³ <http://www.interdys.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/KPS12-1-10.pdf>, last visited 7/12/11.

⁴ R.C. 3319.80(B).