



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

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### Am. H.B. 157

129th General Assembly  
(As Reported by H. Education)

**Reps.** Schuring and Letson, Derickson, Hall, Combs, Stebelton, Yuko, Hollington, Fende, Antonio

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## BILL SUMMARY

- Permits an educational service center (ESC) to engage the services of a "dyslexia specialist" to provide training for K-4 teachers at school districts and other 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 services of a dyslexia specialist if an ESC does not provide the training.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Professional development on dyslexia

The bill permits governing boards of 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 an ESC's service territory and to other school districts, community schools, and STEM schools that have contracted with the ESC for training.<sup>1</sup>

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

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

specialist to train teachers independently. Current law does not expressly prohibit school districts from engaging services of a dyslexia specialist to train teachers. However, under the bill, it might be construed that school districts may only engage these services independently if ESCs do not provide them.<sup>2</sup>

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

Finally, 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 standards<sup>3</sup> or standards from any other nationally recognized organization that specializes in issues surrounding dyslexia, or any subsequently adopted standards.<sup>4</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-15-11
Reported, H. Education	06-09-11

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3319.80(A).

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.interdys.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/KPS12-1-10.pdf>, last visited 3/18/11.

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3319.80(B).