

SENATE No. 2443

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)

SENATE, Thursday, April 19, 2018

The committee on Education, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 294) of Barbara A. L'Italien, Linda Dorcena Forry, James B. Eldridge, Joan B. Lovely and other members of the General Court for legislation to address the special education needs of children with dyslexia; and (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 313) of Bruce E. Tarr, Jason M. Lewis, Tackey Chan, Josh S. Cutler and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to dyslexia,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2443).

For the committee,
Sonia Chang-Diaz

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An Act relative to students with dyslexia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after section 57 the
2 following section:-

3 SECTION 57A.

4 (a) The department of elementary and secondary education shall issue guidelines for
5 districts, subject to appropriation, to develop screening procedures or protocols for students who
6 demonstrate one or more potential indicators of a neurological learning disability including but
7 not limited to dyslexia.

8 (b) Section 1 of chapter 287 of the Acts of 2012 is hereby further amended by inserting
9 after the word “education”, in line 8, the following:- “The secretary shall appoint 1 member to
10 the panel who represents or is a member of a dyslexia advocacy organization.”

11 (c) Said section 1 of said chapter 287 of the Acts of 2012 is hereby amended by inserting
12 after the word “assessments”, in line 40, the following words:- “, identification of neurological
13 learning disabilities including, but not limited to, dyslexia”.

14 (d) Said section 1 of said chapter 287 of the Acts of 2012 is hereby further amended by
15 inserting after the word “development”, in line 51, the following:- “; and (7) action steps to
16 implement the research-based recommendations including, but not limited to, student screening
17 and teacher preparation methods contained in reports written by experts in early language and
18 literacy development with respect to reading disabilities including, but not limited to, dyslexia.”