

HOUSE BILL 1735

By Sexton

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to dyslexia.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

49-6-304.

For the purposes of this chapter and chapter 10, “dyslexia” means a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin and is characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3004(c)(1), is amended by adding the following language at the end of the subdivision:

In addition to other topics offered during in-service days of training, training shall formally address dyslexia and similar reading disorders and provide effective instruction for students with dyslexia using appropriate scientific research and brain-based multisensory intervention methods and strategies.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 10, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

49-10-115.

In addition to other training and resources authorized by this chapter, the department of education shall collaborate with institutions of higher education to formally address dyslexia, as defined in § 49-6-304, and similar reading disorders by providing educators and teachers training in providing effective instruction for students with dyslexia using appropriate scientific research and brain-based multisensory intervention methods and strategies.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it. It shall apply to in-service training beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.