

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

H

2

HOUSE BILL 149
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/11/17

Short Title: Students W/ Dyslexia and Dyscalculia.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 22, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND LOCAL BOARDS
3 OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP TOOLS TO ENSURE IDENTIFICATION OF
4 STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA AND DYSCALCULIA.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** It is the intent of the General Assembly that all students with specific
7 learning disabilities, including dyslexia and dyscalculia, receive the necessary and appropriate
8 screenings, assessments, and special education services to provide interventions for learning
9 difficulties with language, reading, writing, and mathematics.

10 **SECTION 2.** To provide a definition to enable for the identification of and
11 intervention for students with dyslexia and students with dyscalculia, the State Board of
12 Education shall, as part of its policies for specific learning disabilities, define dyslexia as
13 follows: "Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is
14 characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling
15 and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological
16 component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the
17 provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in
18 reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary
19 and background knowledge." The State Board of Education shall include the definition of
20 dyslexia, as required by this section, in the policies for specific learning disabilities no later
21 than June 30, 2017.

22 **SECTION 3.** Prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year, the State Board of
23 Education shall ensure that ongoing professional development opportunities are made available
24 to teachers and other school personnel on the identification of and intervention strategies for
25 students with dyslexia, dyscalculia, or other specific learning disabilities. Prior to the start of
26 the 2017-2018 school year, the State Board of Education shall also develop and make available
27 information electronically to parents, educators, and other concerned groups that provides
28 further data concerning characteristics of children with dyslexia, educational methodologies,
29 screenings, and what is available to support the work with children with dyslexia in North
30 Carolina.

31 **SECTION 4.** Prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year, local boards of
32 education shall review the diagnostic tools and screening instruments used for dyslexia,
33 dyscalculia, or other specific learning disabilities to ensure that they are age-appropriate and
34 effective and shall determine if additional diagnostic and screening tools are needed.

35 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

