

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 2616 – SB 2635

March 22, 2016

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to provide a universal screening tool for dyslexia that shall be utilized by local education agencies (LEAs) through the existing Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI) framework. Requires LEAs to use the universal screening tool to screen each student in kindergarten through second grade three times each year. After the screening procedures are complete each year, the LEA shall convene a team to analyze screening and progress monitoring data to assist teachers in planning and implementing appropriate instruction and evidence-based interventions for all students. Sets forth the process that an LEA shall follow if a student displays characteristics of dyslexia. Requires the DOE to provide professional development for educators in the area of identification and intervention methods for dyslexia.

Creates an eight-member Dyslexia Advisory Council that shall be comprised of the Commissioner of Education; an education specialist from the DOE; a dyslexia advisory group representative; a special education teacher; an elementary school teacher, a middle school teacher; a high school teacher; and a parent of a child who is dyslexic. The terms of the council members shall begin on July 1, 2016, with the council meeting quarterly. Requires the council to submit an annual report to the Education Committees of the General Assembly and to coordinate with the DOE in the selection of the universal screening tool that will be used. The council shall terminate on June 30, 2018, unless extended pursuant to the provisions of the *Tennessee Governmental Entity Review Law*.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures - \$1,651,000

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (014805): Makes various changes to Section 1 of the bill to require the DOE to develop procedures for use within the existing RTI framework or other available means that identify the characteristics of dyslexia which shall be implemented by all LEAs and may be requested for use by any student, parent, guardian, teacher, counselor, or school psychologist.

The amendment adds language that requires the DOE to provide professional development resources for educators in the area of identification and intervention methods for students with dyslexia. Removes the State Board of Education's responsibility to establish rules for the identification criteria to identify students with specific learning disabilities. Adds a licensed

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speech pathologist as a ninth member of the Dyslexia Council. Removes language that required the Dyslexia Advisory Council to coordinate with the DOE on the selection of the universal dyslexia screening tool.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

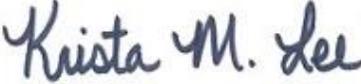
Increase State Expenditures - \$6,200

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- LEAs will utilize the existing RTI framework or other available means and the procedures developed by DOE to identify and screen students for dyslexia.
- A separate screening test for dyslexia will not be utilized or purchased by LEAs or the state.
- Students will only be tested for dyslexia by the LEA using the procedures developed by the DOE if such testing is requested by a student's parent or guardian, teacher, counselor, or school psychologist.
- The DOE will provide professional development resources to LEAs within existing resources. These materials may include existing web-based or other open source materials and will be provided to LEAs for use in professional development seminars. However, LEAs are not required to include these resources in their existing professional development framework. Any professional development that is performed by LEAs on dyslexia screening will be incorporated into the existing professional development schedule.
- The new nine-member Advisory Council on Dyslexia will meet quarterly; for a total of four meetings each year.
- The Council is placed under the *Tennessee Governmental Review Law* with a termination date of June 30, 2018. It is assumed the Council and related expenditures will be extended beyond June 30, 2018.
- The new advisory council, excluding two DOE staff, will receive travel reimbursement.
- Of the remaining seven members, it is reasonably estimated that there will be two members from the East Grand Division, two from the West Grand Division and three from Middle Tennessee.
- Four members, two from the East Division and two from the West Division, will be required to stay overnight in Nashville four times a year at an average cost of \$145 per night; an increase in state expenditures of \$2,320 (\$145 x 4 members x 4 nights).
- Mileage is reimbursed at \$0.47 per mile. It is estimated that seven council members will travel an average of 297 roundtrip miles.
- Travel reimbursement for the seven council members is estimated to be \$3,909 (297 miles roundtrip x 7 members x \$0.47 x 4 annual trips).
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$6,229 (\$2,320 + \$3,909).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Handwritten signature of Krista M. Lee in blue ink.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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