

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 542

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONSTON

STUDENTS: Creates the Dyslexia Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:182.2 and R.S. 36:651(G)(9) and to repeal R.S. 17:182.2 and R.S.
3 36:651(G)(9), relative to students with dyslexia; to establish the Dyslexia
4 Commission; to provide relative to the purpose, membership, and meetings of the
5 commission; to require the commission to study and make recommendations relative
6 to specific matters; to require the commission to report to the legislature; to provide
7 for the powers and duties of the commission; to provide for termination of the
8 commission; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:182.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §182.2. Dyslexia Commission; creation, membership, duties, termination

12 A. There is hereby created the Dyslexia Commission, hereafter referred to
13 as the "commission", for the purpose of undertaking a thorough review and making
14 recommendations for the revision of Chapter 28, Part XXXV of the Louisiana
15 Administrative Code, Bulletin 1903, Regulations and Guidelines for Implementation
16 of the Louisiana Law for the Education of Dyslexic Students, hereafter referred to
17 as "Bulletin 1903".

18 B.(1) The commission shall be composed of fifteen members as follows:

1 (a) One member of the House of Representatives who has experience relative
2 to the education of students with dyslexia and related learning disorders, appointed
3 by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

4 (b) One member of the Senate who has experience relative to the education
5 of students with dyslexia and related learning disorders, appointed by the president
6 of the Senate.

7 (c) One member who is currently employed by the state Department of
8 Education and has knowledge of funding relative to the education of students with
9 dyslexia and related learning disorders, appointed by the state superintendent of
10 education.

11 (d) One member who serves on the board of directors, faculty, or staff of
12 Louisiana Key Academy, appointed by the principal of the school.

13 (e) One member who serves on the board of directors, faculty, or staff of
14 MAX Charter School, appointed by the principal of the school.

15 (f) The president of the Louisiana branch of the International Dyslexia
16 Association, or his designee.

17 (g) The following members appointed by the director of the Nicholls State
18 University Louisiana Center for Dyslexia and Related Learning Disorders:

19 (i) Two members who are certified academic language therapists.

20 (ii) Two members, recommended by local superintendents, who are parents
21 of children who have been identified as having dyslexia who attend public schools
22 in Louisiana.

23 (iii) One member from Decoding Dyslexia Louisiana who also serves on the
24 Early Literacy Commission established by House Resolution No. 222 of the 2019
25 Regular Session.

26 (iv) One member who directs a dyslexia department of a school district in
27 Louisiana.

28 (v) One member who is a founding member of the Louisiana Chapter of the
29 Academic Language Therapy Association.

1 (h) The following members appointed by the president of the State Board of
2 Elementary and Secondary Education:

3 (i) One member of the state board who serves on the Special Education
4 Advisory Panel.

5 (ii) One additional member of the state board.

6 (2) The appointing authorities shall make every effort to appoint individuals
7 whose philosophies align with the findings of the National Reading Panel.

8 (3) Members may consult with experts with knowledge of educating students
9 with dyslexia.

10 (4) Members may establish working groups to carry out its duties.

11 (5) The members of the commission shall serve without compensation.

12 (6) A vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the
13 same manner of original appointment.

14 (7) The members of the commission shall elect a chairman and any other
15 officers deemed necessary from among the membership.

16 C. The Nicholls State University Louisiana Center for Dyslexia and Related
17 Learning Disorders shall provide staff support for the commission.

18 D. The commission shall study and make recommendations for legislation
19 and policies affecting the education of students with dyslexia and related learning
20 disorders in Louisiana. At a minimum, the commission shall do all of the following:

21 (1) Thoroughly review Bulletin 1903 as it relates to current best practices
22 and research findings of cognitive neuroscience for teaching students with dyslexia
23 and related learning disorders and produce a recommended update of such policy
24 with which the state board shall consider adopting.

25 (2) Before the 2021 and 2022 Regular Sessions of the Legislature, the
26 commission shall produce reports of its findings and recommendations. Before the
27 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature, the commission shall produce a revised
28 version of Bulletin 1903. The commission shall submit such documents to the
29 governor, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education,

1 the state superintendent of education, and the State Board of Elementary and
2 Secondary Education no less than sixty days prior to the first day of each regular
3 session.

4 E. The commission shall meet at least twice between the 2020 and 2021
5 Regular Sessions of the Legislature, at least twice between the 2021 and 2022
6 Regular Sessions of the Legislature, and at least twice between the 2022 and 2023
7 Regular Sessions of the Legislature.

8 F. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum
9 for the transaction of business. The commission shall be domiciled in Baton Rouge
10 but may hold public meetings elsewhere in the state.

11 Section 2. R.S. 36:651(G)(9) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department
13 of Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department of
14 Education

15 * * *

16 G. The following agencies, as defined by R.S. 36:3, are transferred to and
17 hereafter shall be within the Department of Education as provided in Part III of
18 Chapter 22 of this Title:

19 * * *

20 (9) The Dyslexia Commission (R.S. 17:182.2).

21 * * *

22 Section 3. R.S. 17:282.2 and R.S. 36:351(G)(9) both as enacted by the Act are
23 hereby repealed in their entirety.

24 Section 4. Section 3 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2023.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 542 Original

2020 Regular Session

Edmonston

Abstract: Creates the Dyslexia Commission (commission) to review and make recommendations for legislation and policies relative to the education of students with dyslexia.

Proposed law creates the commission and charges it with the following:

- (1) Conducting a thorough review and making recommendations for the revision of Chapter 28, Part XXXV of the La. Administrative Code, Bulletin 1903, Regulations and Guidelines for Implementation of the La. Law for the Education of Dyslexic Students.
- (2) Studying and making recommendations for legislation and policies effecting the education of students with dyslexia and related learning disorders in La.
- (3) Meeting and producing reports for submission to the governor, House and Senate committees on education, state superintendent of education, and BESE.

Proposed law provides for 15 commission members.

Proposed law repeals proposed law effective July 1, 2023.

(Adds R.S. 17:182.2 and R.S. 36:651(G)(9); Repeals R.S. 17:182.2 and R.S. 36:651(G)(9))