

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 871 (Substitute for House Bill No. 391 by Representative Marino)

BY REPRESENTATIVES MARINO, BRASS, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, PRESSLY, AND WRIGHT

STUDENTS: Revises the definition of dyslexia for purposes of testing and providing services to students

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:7(11)(d)(i) and 2112(B), relative to screening and
3 intervention for students; to redefine the term dyslexia for purposes of testing
4 students for dyslexia and providing services to students with dyslexia; and to provide
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:7(11)(d)(i) and 2112(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to
8 read as follows:

9 §7. Duties, functions, and responsibilities of board

10 In addition to the authorities granted by R.S. 17:6 and any powers, duties, and
11 responsibilities vested by any other applicable laws, the board shall:

12 * * *

13 (11)

14 * * *

15 (d) For the purposes of this Paragraph:

16 (i) "Dyslexia" shall be defined as ~~a language processing disorder which may~~
17 ~~be manifested by difficulty processing expressive or receptive, oral or written~~
18 ~~language despite adequate intelligence, educational exposure, and cultural~~
19 ~~opportunity. Specific manifestations may occur in one or more areas, including~~

1 ~~difficulty with the alphabet, reading comprehension, writing, and spelling. an~~
 2 ~~unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a~~
 3 ~~much better reader, most commonly caused by a difficulty in phonological~~
 4 ~~processing, which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, and spell~~
 5 "Phonological processing" means the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken
 6 and written language.

* * *

8 §2112. Testing pupils' sight and hearing; testing for dyslexia; notice to parent or
 9 tutor; report to state superintendent

* * *

11 B. For purposes of this Section, "dyslexia" shall be defined as ~~difficulty with~~
 12 ~~the alphabet, reading, reading comprehension, writing, and spelling in spite of~~
 13 ~~adequate intelligence, exposure, and cultural opportunity. an unexpected difficulty~~
 14 ~~in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader, most~~
 15 ~~commonly caused by a difficulty in phonological processing, which affects the~~
 16 ~~ability of an individual to speak, read, and spell. "Phonological processing" means~~
 17 ~~the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken and written language.~~

* * *

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 871 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

Marino

Abstract: Redefines "dyslexia" for the purposes of testing and providing remediation to students.

Present law provides different definitions of "dyslexia" for different purposes. Proposed law retains present law purposes but provides a uniform definition of the term as follows:

- (1) Present law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt a program for testing students for dyslexia and related disorders and requires school boards to provide remediation for dyslexic students in accordance with the program; defines "dyslexia" for this purpose as a language processing disorder which may be manifested by difficulty processing expressive or receptive, oral or written language despite adequate intelligence, educational exposure, and cultural opportunity.

- (2) Present law requires every child in public school in grades K-3 to be screened at least once for the existence of certain impediments, including dyslexia; defines "dyslexia" for this purpose as in (1) above.
- (3) Present law requires, upon the request of a parent, student, or school personnel who has reason to believe that a student has a need to be tested for dyslexia, that a student be referred for testing; defines "dyslexia" for this purpose as difficulty with the alphabet, reading, reading comprehension, writing, and spelling in spite of adequate intelligence, exposure, and cultural opportunity.

Proposed law redefines "dyslexia" for all present law purposes as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader, most commonly caused by a difficulty in phonological processing, which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, and spell; provides that "phonological processing" means the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken and written language.

(Amends R.S. 17:7(11)(d)(i) and 2112(B))