

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 198 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY NEILSON, HAHN, O'NEILL, YOUNGBLOOD, PASHINSKI, HILL-EVANS, O'BRIEN, ROZZI, CALTAGIRONE, SCHLOSSBERG, W. KELLER, KINSEY, DRISCOLL, MURT, DIGIROLAMO, STURLA, BOYLE, V. BROWN, McNEILL, DONATUCCI, WARREN, D. COSTA AND D. MILLER, OCTOBER 25, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 25, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
 2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
 3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
 4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
 5 laws relating thereto," in preliminary provisions, further
 6 providing for definitions; and, in Dyslexia and Early
 7 Literacy Intervention Pilot Program, further providing for
 8 definitions and for establishment of program.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Section 102 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,
 12 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by
 13 adding a definition to read:

14 Section 102. Definitions.--When used in this act the
 15 following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

16 * * *

17 "Dyslexia." A condition that is characterized by difficulty
 18 with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling
 19 and decoding abilities, which characteristics typically result

1 from a deficit in one or more processes related to the
2 phonological component of language, that is often unexpected in
3 relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of
4 effective classroom instruction and that may result in problems
5 in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that may
6 impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

7 * * *

8 Section 2. Sections 1702-C and 1703-C(b) of the act are
9 amended to read:

10 Section 1702-C. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this article
12 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Department." The Department of Education of the
15 Commonwealth.

16 ["Dyslexia." A condition that is characterized by difficulty
17 with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling
18 and decoding abilities, which characteristics typically result
19 from a deficit in one or more processes related to the
20 phonological component of language, that is often unexpected in
21 relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of
22 effective classroom instruction and that may result in problems
23 in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that may
24 impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. The
25 term shall apply only for purposes of the pilot program.]

26 "Intensive intervention." Explicit, multisensory, synthetic
27 phonics instruction and a structured language program delivered
28 with fidelity by a trained interventionist. The term shall apply
29 only for purposes of the pilot program.

30 "Pilot program." The Dyslexia and Early Literacy

1 Intervention Pilot Program established under this article.

2 Section 1703-C. Establishment.

3 * * *

4 (b) Program operation.--The pilot program shall operate for
5 [three] five full school years, beginning with the school year
6 that begins at least six months after the effective date of this
7 article.

8 * * *

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.