

HOUSE BILL 1252

F5

2lr2422

By: **Delegates Hucker, Cullison, and Ross**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2012

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Dyslexia Testing and Services for Dyslexic Students – Pilot**
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to establish a pilot
5 program for dyslexia and related disorder testing; requiring the Department to
6 recommend appropriate testing methods and appropriate services to a student
7 identified as having dyslexia or a related disorder; authorizing a county board to
8 participate in the program in accordance with certain requirements; subject to a
9 certain limitation, requiring county boards to test students for dyslexia or
10 related disorders under certain circumstances; requiring a county board to
11 provide a certain student with certain remedial education; requiring the
12 Department to submit a certain report by a certain date to the General
13 Assembly; defining certain terms; and generally relating to testing for dyslexia
14 and providing services to dyslexic students.

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Education
17 Section 7–434
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Education**

23 **7–434.**

24 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**
25 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) “DYSLEXIA” MEANS A LANGUAGE PROCESSING DISORDER**
2 **THAT MAY BE MANIFESTED BY DIFFICULTY PROCESSING EXPRESSIVE OR**
3 **RECEPTIVE, ORAL OR WRITTEN LANGUAGE DESPITE ADEQUATE INTELLIGENCE,**
4 **EDUCATIONAL EXPOSURE, AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITY, INCLUDING**
5 **DIFFICULTY WITH THE ALPHABET, READING COMPREHENSION, WRITING, OR**
6 **SPELLING.**

7 **(3) “RELATED DISORDER” MEANS A DISORDER RELATED OR**
8 **SIMILAR TO DYSLEXIA, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENTAL AUDITORY**
9 **IMPERCEPTION, DYSPHASIA, SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTAL DYSLEXIA, DYSPRAXIA,**
10 **DEVELOPMENTAL DYSGRAPHIA, AND DEVELOPMENTAL SPELLING DISABILITY.**

11 **(B) (1) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PILOT**
12 **PROGRAM FOR DYSLEXIA AND RELATED DISORDER TESTING.**

13 **(II) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS**
14 **TO PARTICIPATING COUNTY BOARDS AS TO THE APPROPRIATE TESTING**
15 **METHOD AND THE APPROPRIATE SERVICES TO PROVIDE A STUDENT WHO IS**
16 **IDENTIFIED AS BEING DYSLEXIC OR AS HAVING A RELATED DISORDER.**

17 **(2) (I) EACH COUNTY BOARD MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT**
18 **PROGRAM.**

19 **(II) A PARTICIPATING COUNTY BOARD SHALL COMPLY WITH**
20 **THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.**

21 **(C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AT THE**
22 **REQUEST OF A PARENT, A STUDENT, A SCHOOL NURSE, A TEACHER, OR ANY**
23 **OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A STUDENT**
24 **SHOULD BE TESTED FOR DYSLEXIA AND RELATED DISORDERS, THE COUNTY**
25 **BOARD SHALL TEST THE STUDENT.**

26 **(2) IF SOMEONE OTHER THAN A PARENT IS REQUESTING A**
27 **STUDENT BE TESTED FOR DYSLEXIA OR A RELATED DISORDER, THE TEST MAY**
28 **NOT BE CONDUCTED UNLESS A PARENT OR ANOTHER LEGAL GUARDIAN**
29 **APPROVES.**

30 **(D) IF THE TEST SUBSTANTIATES THE CONCERN THAT A STUDENT HAS**
31 **DYSLEXIA OR A RELATED DISORDER, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL PROVIDE**
32 **EDUCATIONAL REMEDIATION IN AN APPROPRIATE MULTISENSORY, SYSTEMATIC**
33 **LANGUAGE-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT IS PERTINENT TO THE**
34 **STUDENT’S DISORDER.**

1 **(E) BY DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT**
2 **TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE**
3 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE NUMBER OF COUNTY BOARDS PARTICIPATING**
4 **IN THE PILOT PROGRAM AND THE IMPACT OF THE PILOT PROGRAM ON STUDENT**
5 **LEARNING.**

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2012.