

**ERIC EBERSOLE**  
*Legislative District 12*  
Baltimore and Howard Counties

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Ways and Means Committee

*Chair*  
Early Childhood Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 305  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3328 · 301-858-3328  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3328  
Eric.Ebersole@house.state.md.us

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**January 20, 2021**

**SPONSOR Testimony on House Bill 237**

**State Department of Education - Early Literacy and Dyslexia Practices - Guidance and Assistance**

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington and distinguished members of the Ways and Means Committee,

In 2017, the Maryland Dyslexia Task Force recommended the development of a Dyslexia Handbook “to provide schools and communities with consistent best practices for dyslexia and reading”. HB237 creates a stakeholder advisory group of educators and dyslexia community members to collaborate on creating this Reading and Dyslexia Handbook. The handbook will provide guidance for general and special educators on best practices to identify and remediate students with dyslexia and reading difficulties by enumerating evidence-based instruction, interventions, professional learning, and assessment /screening tools.

The Ready to Read Act (SB734/Ch512 – 2019) directs MSDE to consult with parents, teachers, and other interested stakeholders on or before June 1, 2020 to develop and update resources for local school systems. The creation of this handbook will provide a great resource to meet this requirement. In addition to the handbook, HB237 requires the Maryland State Department of Education to designate an employee as a dyslexia point of contact to serve as a reference for educators around the state.

This legislation passed the Ways and Means Committee and the House of Delegates unanimously in 2020 as HB718. Three minor adjustments have been made to bring the legislation more up to date.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric D. Ebersole". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Delegate Eric Ebersole