

By: Representative Martinson

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1134

1 AN ACT TO REENACT SECTION 37-23-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 WHICH REQUIRES THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT PILOT
3 PROGRAMS FOR THE TESTING OF DYSLEXIA IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO
4 AMEND REENACTED SECTION 37-23-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
5 REQUIRE ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE DYSLEXIA TESTING AND
6 REMEDIAL SERVICES TO STUDENTS IN NEED AND TO DELETE THE REPEALER
7 ON THE DYSLEXIA TESTING PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

9 SECTION 1. Section 37-23-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 reenacted and amended as follows:

11 37-23-15. (1) The State Department of Education * * *
12 shall * * * adopt a program under which certain students enrolled
13 or enrolling in public schools in this state shall be tested for
14 dyslexia and related disorders as may be necessary. The * * *
15 program shall provide that beginning in the 1999-2000 school year,
16 upon the request of a parent, student, school nurse, classroom
17 teacher or other school personnel who has reason to believe that a
18 student has a need to be tested for dyslexia, the school district
19 shall test such student * * * for appropriate services. However,
20 a student shall not be tested for dyslexia whose parent or
21 guardian objects thereto on grounds that such testing conflicts
22 with his conscientiously held religious beliefs.

23 (2) In accordance with the program adopted by the State
24 Department of Education, such school boards shall provide
25 remediation in an appropriate multi-sensory, systematic
26 language-based regular education program or programs, as
27 determined by the school district, such as the Texas Scottish Rite
28 Hospital Dyslexia Training Program, pertinent to the child's

29 physical and educational disorders or the sensory area in need of
30 remediation for those students who do not qualify for special
31 education services.

32 (3) The State Department of Education * * * shall make
33 recommendations to the school boards of all school districts for
34 the delivery of services to students who are identified as
35 dyslexic.

36 (4) For the purposes of this section:

37 (a) "Dyslexia" means a language processing disorder
38 which may be manifested by difficulty processing expressive or
39 receptive, oral or written language despite adequate intelligence,
40 educational exposure and cultural opportunity. Specific
41 manifestations may occur in one or more areas, including
42 difficulty with the alphabet, reading comprehension, writing and
43 spelling.

44 (b) "Related disorders" shall include disorders similar
45 to or related to dyslexia such as developmental auditory
46 imperception, dysphasia, specific developmental dyslexia,
47 developmental dysgraphia and developmental spelling disability.

48 * * *

49 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
50 and after July 1, 1999.