

**Adopted
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

House Bill No. 754

BY: Committee

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
in lieu thereof the following:**

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-173-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:
10 37-173-9. (1) (a) The parent or legal guardian is not
11 required to accept the offer of enrolling in another public school
12 in lieu of requesting a Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship
13 to a nonpublic school. However, if the parent or legal guardian
14 chooses the public school option, the student may continue
15 attending a public school chosen by the parent or legal guardian
16 until the student completes Grade 12.



17 (b) If the parent or legal guardian chooses a public
18 school within the district, the school district shall provide
19 transportation to the public school selected by the parent or
20 legal guardian. However, if the parent or legal guardian chooses
21 a public school in another district, the parent or legal guardian
22 is responsible to provide transportation to the school of choice.

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24 * * * These provisions do not prohibit a parent or legal
25 guardian of a student diagnosed with dyslexia, at any time, from
26 choosing the option of a Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship
27 which would allow the student to attend another public school or
28 nonpublic special purpose school.

29 (* * *2) If the parent or legal guardian chooses the
30 nonpublic school option and the student is accepted by the
31 nonpublic school pending the availability of a space for the
32 student, the parent or legal guardian of the student must notify
33 the department thirty (30) days before the first scholarship
34 payment and before entering the nonpublic school in order to be
35 eligible for the scholarship when a space becomes available for
36 the student in the nonpublic school.

37 (* * *3) The parent or legal guardian of a student may
38 choose, as an alternative, to enroll the student in and transport
39 the student to a public school in an adjacent school district
40 which has available space and has a program with dyslexia services
41 that provide daily dyslexia therapy sessions delivered by a



42 department licensed dyslexia therapist, and that school district
43 shall accept the student and report the student for purposes of
44 the district's funding under the Mississippi Adequate Education
45 Program.

46 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section
47 37-173-16, Mississippi Code of 1972:

48 37-173-16. Each local school district shall make an initial
49 determination of whether a student diagnosed with dyslexia meets
50 the eligibility criteria under the Individuals with Disabilities
51 Education Act (IDEA) to have an Individualized Education Program
52 developed and to receive services. If a student's diagnosis of
53 dyslexia does not result in an IDEA eligibility determination then
54 the district must proceed with their process for determining if
55 the student is eligible for a 504 Plan under the Rehabilitation
56 Act based on the presumption that proficiency in spelling, reading
57 and writing are essential for the student to achieve appropriate
58 educational progress. Each local school district shall develop
59 interventions and strategies to address the needs of those
60 students diagnosed with dyslexia which provide the necessary
61 accommodations to enable the student to achieve appropriate
62 educational progress. The interventions and strategies developed
63 shall include, but not be limited to, the use of the 3-Tier
64 Instructional Model and the utilization of provisions of the IDEA
65 and Section 504 to address those needs.



66 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
67 and after July 1, 2021.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-173-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO DELETE CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATING TO SCHOOLS' DETERMINATION OF
3 STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-173-16,
4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THE STEPS SCHOOLS MUST TAKE
5 FOR THE EDUCATION AND CARE OF STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA AND OTHER
6 RELATED DISORDERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

