

By: Senator(s) Hickman

To: Corrections

## SENATE BILL NO. 2041

1       AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF  
2  CORRECTIONS TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF INMATES UNDER ITS  
3  JURISDICTION TO DETERMINE THE PREVALENCE OF INDIVIDUALS WITH  
4  DYSLEXIA AND MAKE A REPORT THEREON TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR  
5  RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7       **SECTION 1. Study on Dyslexia among inmates.** (1) The  
8  Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) shall conduct a  
9  comprehensive study of inmates under its jurisdiction to determine  
10 the prevalence of individuals with dyslexia.

11       (2) The study shall include, but not be limited to:

12           (a) Screening for dyslexia using evidence-based tools  
13  and methods approved by qualified experts in the field of dyslexia  
14  diagnosis and education.

15           (b) Collection of demographic and educational  
16  background data, including the inmate's age, gender, race and  
17  prior access to educational resources, provided that such data is  
18  collected in a manner that protects individual privacy.

19 (c) An analysis of how dyslexia correlates with  
20 educational attainment, disciplinary history and recidivism rates.

21        **SECTION 2. Protection of confidential information.** (1) All  
22        data collected pursuant to this study shall comply with the  
23        requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and  
24        Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, the Family Educational Rights  
25        and Privacy Act (FERPA), and any other applicable federal or state  
26        laws regarding the privacy and confidentiality of health and  
27        educational records.

28                   (2) Inmates shall be informed of their rights and shall have  
29 the opportunity to opt out of participation in the study without  
30 fear of reprisal or negative consequences.

31        **SECTION 3. Report to the Legislature.** (1) The Mississippi  
32        Department of Corrections shall compile the findings of the study  
33        and submit a report to the Legislature no later than December 31,  
34        2026.

35 (2) The report shall include:

36 (a) The prevalence of dyslexia among inmates under the  
37 jurisdiction of the MDOC.

38 (b) Demographic data and trends associated with the  
39 findings, presented in aggregate form.

40 (c) Recommendations for programs, policies or  
41 legislation to address the needs of inmates with dyslexia and  
42 improve educational and rehabilitation outcomes.

43           **SECTION 4. Implementation and funding.** (1) The Mississippi  
44 Department of Corrections may seek grants or other funding sources  
45 to assist with the costs of conducting the study.

46           (2) The MDOC is authorized to partner with educational  
47 institutions, nonprofit organizations or other qualified entities  
48 with expertise in dyslexia to conduct the study.

49           **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
50 and after July 1, 2026.

