1   **Senate Bill No. 662**

2   (By Senators Unger, Jenkins and Stollings)

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4   [Introduced February 20, 2012; referred to the Committee on

5   Education.]

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10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by

11   adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2-36a; and to

12   amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated

13   §18-20-1e, all relating to defining "dyslexia"; establishing

14   a dyslexia screening and intervention pilot project; and

15   establishing a dyslexia teacher training pilot program.

16 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

17   That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended

18 by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2-36a; and that

19 said code by amended by adding thereto a new section, designated

20 §18-20-1e, all to read as follows:

21 **ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

22 **§18-2-36a. Dyslexia Screening and Intervention Pilot Project.**

23   (a) As used in this section, "dyslexia" means a specific

1 learning disorder that is neurological in origin and that is

2 characterized by unexpected difficulties with accurate or fluent

3 word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities not

4 consistent with the intelligence, motivation and sensory

5 capabilities of the person, which difficulties typically result

6 from a deficit in the phonological component of language.

7   (b) The state board shall establish a pilot project to provide

8 early screening and intervention services for children with risk

9 factors for dyslexia.

10   (1) The state superintendent shall select three school

11 districts to participate in the pilot project.

12   (2) To be considered for the pilot project, a school district

13 shall submit a proposal to the state superintendent that identifies

14 a method of screening children for low phonemic awareness and other

15 risk factors for dyslexia, provides for the enrollment of children

16 identified as having risk factors for dyslexia in a reading program

17 staffed by teachers trained in multisensory structured language

18 programs and includes a methodology for evaluating the effects of

19 the reading program on the children's identified risk factors.

20   (3) Each participating school district, through early

21 childhood reading instruction and reading assistance programs,

22 shall screen children six years of age or younger for indications

23 of dyslexia, provide appropriate reading intervention services for

24 those children identified as having risk factors for dyslexia and

1 administer assessments, approved by the state superintendent, to

2 ascertain whether the intervention services improve those students'

3 reading and learning.

4   (A) When a child is identified as having risk factors for

5 dyslexia, the school district shall notify the child's parent or

6 guardian of that fact and that the child, as part of the pilot

7 project, is eligible to receive reading intervention services to

8 measure the effectiveness of early reading assistance programs.

9   (B) The parent or guardian shall indicate in writing that he

10 or   she   voluntarily   and   knowingly   consents   to   the   child's

11 participation in the pilot project for the provision of reading

12 intervention services.

13   (C) Each school district shall provide to the parents of

14 children identified as having risk factors for dyslexia information

15 about the learning disability, recommended multisensory treatments

16 and available services.

17   (4) The state superintendent shall apply for private and other

18 nonstate funds and shall use available state funds appropriated to

19 the Department of Education for the pilot project.

20   (5) The state superintendent shall establish guidelines and

21 procedures for the pilot project.

22   (6) The   state   superintendent   shall   consult   with   an

23 organization or organizations that specializes in multisensory

24 structured language programs for the treatment of dyslexia in

1 establishing and operating the pilot project.

2   (7) Each participating school district shall report to the
3 state superintendent regarding the progress of the pilot project
4 with a level of frequency to be determined by the superintendent,
5 but no less frequently than twice annually.

6   (8) The pilot project shall run for three full school years,
7 beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.

8   (9) The goal of this pilot project is to demonstrate and
9 evaluate the effectiveness of early reading assistance programs for
10 children with risk factors for dyslexia and to evaluate whether
11 those programs can reduce future special education costs.

12   (c) The state board shall report to the Legislative Oversight
13 Commission on Education Accountability by December 1, 2012 and by
14 December 1 thereafter for the duration of the pilot projects on the
15 effect of the projects on diagnosing and treating children with
16 risk factors for dyslexia.

17 **ARTICLE 20.   EDUCATION OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.**

18 §**18-20-1e.   Creation of a dyslexia teacher training pilot program.**

19   (a) As used in this section, "dyslexia" means a specific
20 learning disorder that is neurological in origin and that is
21 characterized by unexpected difficulties with accurate or fluent
22 word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities not
23 consistent with the intelligence, motivation and sensory
24 capabilities of the person, which difficulties typically result

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1 from a deficit in the phonological component of language.

2   (b) The state board shall establish a pilot project to educate
3 teachers on recognizing and adapting to children with risk factors
4 for dyslexia.

5   (1) The state superintendent shall select one or more
6 institutions of higher education and three school districts to
7 participate in the pilot program.

8   (2) The selected institution(s) of higher education shall:

9   (A) Provide teachers of grades kindergarten through fourth in
10 the selected school districts with programs or institutes designed
11 to train teachers on the indicators of dyslexia and the types of
12 instruction that children with risk factors for dyslexia need to
13 learn, read, write and spell, including multisensory structured
14 language programs; and

15   (B) Provide instruction for teacher candidates enrolled in the
16 elementary, early childhood education or special education program
17 at the institution, which is incorporated into the programs for the
18 school districts and is designed to train the teacher candidates on
19 the indicators of dyslexia and the type of instruction that
20 children with risk factors for dyslexia need to learn, read, write
21 and spell, including multisensory structured language programs.

22   (3) The state superintendent shall apply for private and other
23 nonstate funds and shall use available state funds appropriated to
24 the Department of Education for the pilot project.

1   (4) The state superintendent shall establish guidelines and

2 procedures for the pilot project, including benchmarks for the

3 evaluation of the project.

4   (5) The pilot project shall run for a length of time to be

5 determined by the state board.

6   (6) The participating institution(s) of higher education and

7 participating school districts shall file reports concerning the

8 pilot program with the state superintendent at intervals to be

9 determined by the superintendent.

10   (7) The goal of this pilot project is to demonstrate and

11 evaluate the effectiveness of training teachers to provide early

12 reading assistance programs for children with risk factors for

13 dyslexia and to evaluate whether the early assistance programs can

14 reduce future special education costs.

15   (c) The state board shall report to the Legislative Oversight

16 Commission on Education Accountability by December 1, 2012, and

17 each December 1 thereafter for the duration of the pilot projects

18 on the effect of the projects on teachers' and teacher candidates'

19 ability to detect and adapt to dyslexia.

     NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish a pilot
project for dyslexia screening and intervention and a pilot project
to educate teachers on recognizing and adapting to children with
dyslexia in order to improve the education children with dyslexia
receive in West Virginia.

§18-2-36a and §18-20-1e are new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.