

SENATE No. 313

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to dyslexia.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Theodore C. Speliotis</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Solomon Goldstein-Rose</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>

<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>Worcester and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Bradford R. Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Brian Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Joseph A. Boncore</i>	<i>First Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Paul Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>James E. Timilty</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Marc T. Lombardo</i>	<i>22nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

SENATE No. 313

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 313) of Bruce E. Tarr, Jason M. Lewis, Tackey Chan, Josh S. Cutler and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to dyslexia. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to dyslexia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after section
2 57 the following section:-

3 SECTION 57A. (a) For the purposes of this section the following word will have the
4 following meaning:

5 Neurological Learning Disability: “a specific learning disability, including but not limited
6 to dyslexia, that is neurological in origin with indicators that include but not limited to, difficulty
7 in acquiring language skills; inability to comprehend oral or written language; difficulty in
8 rhyming words; difficulty in naming letters, recognizing letters, matching letters to sounds, and
9 blending sounds when speaking and reading words; difficulty recognizing and remembering
10 sight words; consistent transposition of number sequences, letter reversals, inversions, and
11 substitutes and trouble in replication of content.”

12 (b) The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall issue guidelines for
13 districts, subject to appropriation, to develop screening procedures or protocols to identify
14 students who possess one or more potential indicators of a neurological learning disability
15 including but not limited to dyslexia.

16 SECTION 2. Section 1 of Chapter 287 of the Acts of 2012 is hereby amended by
17 inserting after the word “assessments”, in line 40, the following words:-- “, identification of
18 neurological learning disabilities including but not limited to dyslexia”.

19 SECTION 3. Said section 1 of said chapter 287 of the Acts of 2012 is hereby further
20 amended by inserting after the word “education”, in line 8, the following:-- “The secretary shall
21 appoint 1 member to the panel who represents and/or is a member of a dyslexia advocacy
22 organization.”

23 SECTION 4. Said section 1 of said chapter 287 of the Acts of 2012 is hereby further
24 amended by inserting after the word “development”, in line 51, the following:-- “; and (7) action
25 steps to implement the research-based recommendations including but not limited to teacher
26 preparation programs contained in reports written by experts in early language and literacy
27 development with respect to reading disabilities including but not limited to dyslexia.