

2016 -- H 7053

=====  
LC003253  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - RHODE ISLAND VISION EDUCATION AND SERVICES  
PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representatives Lombardi, Carnevale, Williams, Shekarchi, and Hull

Date Introduced: January 07, 2016

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 Section 1. Chapter 16-26.1 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Vision Education  
2 and Services Program" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-26.1-6. Dyslexia regulations to be adopted. -- (a) Findings of fact. The general**  
4 **assembly finds and declares as follows:**

5 (1) Dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed;

6 (2) Dyslexia adversely affects a child's educational performance;

7 (3) Dyslexia is highly prevalent, affecting one out of five (5) individuals in some form,  
8 and is persistent;

9 (4) Dyslexia is a paradox, so that often the same individual who has a weakness in  
10 decoding or reading fluency also has strengths in higher level cognitive functions such as  
11 reasoning, critical thinking, concept formation, and problem solving;

12 (5) Great progress has been made in understanding dyslexia at a scientific level, including  
13 its epidemiology, and cognitive and neurobiological bases; and

14 (6) The diagnosis of dyslexia is critical, and must lead to focused, evidence-based  
15 interventions, necessary accommodations, self-awareness, self-empowerment, and school and life  
16 success.

17 (b) The state council on elementary and secondary education shall promulgate rules and  
18 regulations that incorporate the definition of dyslexia that is set forth in subsection (c) of this

1 section, as well as the findings set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

2 (c) For purposes of this section, "dyslexia" shall be defined as an unexpected difficulty in  
3 reading and spelling in an individual who has normal intelligence. Dyslexia reflects difficulty in  
4 phonological processing (understanding the sounds of spoken language) and/or visual processing,  
5 which typically affects speaking, reading, spelling, and often, learning a second language.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC003253  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - RHODE ISLAND VISION EDUCATION AND SERVICES  
PROGRAM

\*\*\*

1           This act would make certain findings about dyslexia and would establish a definition of  
2 "dyslexia". This act would also direct the council on elementary and secondary education to  
3 promulgate rules and regulations to incorporate this definition and findings.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC003253  
=====