

SESSION OF 2018

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE
BILL NO. 2602**

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2602, as amended, would establish the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia (Task Force), a 19-member task force, which would advise and make recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, and the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) regarding matters concerning the use of evidence-based practices for students with dyslexia. The bill would state recommendations and resource materials shall:

- Research and recommend evidence-based reading practices to address dyslexia or characteristics of dyslexia for use by schools;
- Research and recommend high quality pre-service and in-service professional development activities to address reading difficulties like dyslexia, including identification of dyslexia and effective reading interventions to be used in schools and within degree programs, such as education, reading, special education, speech-language pathology, and psychology;
- Study and examine current state and federal law, rules and regulations, and the implementation of such laws and rules and regulations that affect students with dyslexia; and

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

- Identify valid and reliable screening and evaluation assessments and protocols that can be used, as well as the appropriate personnel to administer such assessments, in order to identify children with reading difficulties, such as dyslexia or the characteristics of dyslexia, as part of an ongoing reading progress monitoring system, multi-tiered system of supports, and Child Find special education eligibility for students.

The Task Force would be comprised of three Senate members, one appointed by the President of the Senate, one by the Senate Majority Leader, and one by the Senate Minority Leader; three House members, one appointed by the Speaker of the House, one appointed by the House Majority Leader, and one appointed by the House Minority Leader; two members appointed by the KSBE; one professor employed by a state educational institution with specialized expertise in effective evidence-based reading practices for dyslexia appointed by the President of the Kansas Board of Regents; two principals of a public school appointed by the United School Administrators of Kansas; four parents of children with a diagnosis of dyslexia appointed by Keys for Networking, Inc., Families Together, Inc., and Decoding Dyslexia Johnson County; one member appointed by the Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators (KASEA); one building-level reading specialist appointed by the Commissioner of Education; one licensed psychologist or speech-language pathologist who diagnoses dyslexia as a part of such person's practice appointed by the chairperson of the Task Force; and one member identified as a nonprofit service provider for children diagnosed with dyslexia appointed by the chairperson of the Task Force.

The KSBE would designate one of the members it appoints as the chairperson of the Task Force, who would call an organizational meeting of the Task Force on or before July 15, 2018. At such organizational meeting, the members would elect a vice-chairperson from the membership of the Task Force. The Task Force would also consider dates for future

meetings, the agendas for such meetings, and the need for electing a facilitator to assist in discussions among the members of the Task Force. The Task Force would be prohibited from meeting more than six times in 2018 and would be allowed to hold meetings by telephone or video conference, if necessary. The Task Force would be allowed to meet at any time and at any place within the state on the call of the chairperson. A quorum of the Task Force would be nine members, and all actions of the Task Force would be by motion adopted by a majority of those members present when there is a quorum. If approved by the Legislative Coordinating Council, members of the Task Force attending meetings authorized by the Task Force would be paid amounts for expenses, mileage, and subsistence, as provided by law.

The Task Force's work would be completed by November 1, 2018, and a report would be prepared and submitted to the Governor, the Legislature, and the KSBE by December 1, 2018.

Background

The bill, as introduced, would have required the KSBE to develop rules and regulations for the appropriate screening of students for dyslexia and related disorders on or before July 1, 2019, and for each school district to conduct appropriate screenings of students for dyslexia and related disorders in accordance with guidance promulgated by the KSBE beginning in school year 2019-2020.

The bill was introduced by Representatives Brim and Cox. In the House Committee on Education hearing, a parent, a speech-language therapist and literacy specialist, and a representative of Dyslexia Help KC, LLC, appeared as proponents of the bill. Representatives Brim and Cox also addressed the Committee in response to Committee questions. Representative Schroeder, a representative of

Cradle to Career Literacy Center, numerous parents, and a student offered written-only proponent testimony.

Representatives of the Holton Special Education Cooperative, Kansas Association of School Boards, KASEA, and United School Administrators of Kansas appeared as opponents of the bill. The assistant superintendent of USD 353, Wellington, and the superintendent and director of special education of USD 282, West Elk, provided written-only opponent testimony.

The Kansas National Education Association provided neutral testimony.

The House Committee adopted a substitute bill establishing the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to add two members to the Task Force: one Senate member appointed by the Senate Majority Leader and one House member appointed by the House Majority Leader. The House Committee also amended the bill to specify who would appoint the following Task Force members: a professor employed by a state educational institution with specialized expertise in effective evidence-based reading practices for dyslexia; a licensed psychologist or speech-language pathologist who diagnoses dyslexia as a part of such person's practice; and a member identified as a nonprofit service provider for children diagnosed with dyslexia.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Department of Education indicates enactment of the bill would not change state aid expenditures to school districts; however, any costs resulting from the bill would be borne by school districts. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the original bill is not reflected in *The FY 2019 Governor's Budget Report*.

No fiscal note is available on the substitute bill.