

House Bill 40

By: Representatives Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, Stovall of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Trammell of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Burnough of the 77<sup>th</sup>, Bruce of the 61<sup>st</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to educational programs, so as to require local school systems to conduct  
3 certain screenings for dyslexia; to provide for a definition; to require the State School  
4 Superintendent to employ a dyslexia consultant; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
9 relating to educational programs, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as  
10 follows:

11 "20-2-159.6.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'dyslexia' means a learning disability that is  
13 neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word  
14 recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities that typically result from a deficit  
15 in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other  
16 cognitive abilities. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading  
17 comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and  
18 background knowledge.

19 (b)(1) Local school systems shall, once each school year, screen all students from  
20 kindergarten through grade two for dyslexia; provided, however, that such students shall  
21 not have been previously screened for dyslexia by such local school system. Local  
22 school systems shall screen any student in grades three through 12 for dyslexia if, in the  
23 opinion of his or her teacher, such student has difficulty in any of the areas enumerated  
24 in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

25 (2) The screening provided for pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include:

26 (A) Phonological and phonemic awareness;

27 (B) Sound symbol recognition;

28 (C) Alphabet knowledge;

29 (D) Decoding skills;

30 (E) Rapid naming skills; and

31 (F) Encoding skills.

32 (c) The State School Superintendent shall employ a professional who shall serve in the  
33 position of dyslexia consultant and such consultant shall assist the Department of  
34 Education and local school systems in complying with the provisions of this Code section."

35 **SECTION 2.**

36 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.