

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Education

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 3/17

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires school districts screen students for specified risk factors for dyslexia and ensure specified staff members receive annual training on dyslexia. Requires Department of Education designate dyslexia specialist to assist districts. Prohibits Teacher Standards and Practices Commission from approving teacher education institution or program unless program provides minimum of one course on dyslexia. First applies requirements to 2016-2017 school year.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:****EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:** Dyslexia may be considered a language-based or reading disability with a neurological basis that occurs when a person has difficulty quickly and accurately decoding words, comprehending text, or spelling. Definitions for dyslexia vary, making determining prevalence difficult, though it is widely accepted to be one of the most common learning disabilities. Estimates indicate that the prevalence of dyslexia in school-aged children is anywhere between roughly five to 17 percent.

Nationally, the rights of individuals with dyslexia are addressed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (2004), Rehabilitation Act (1973), and Americans with Disabilities Act (1990). Many states also currently have laws specific to dyslexia screening and training programs. As of July 2012, 22 states had statewide dyslexia laws.

Senate Bill 612 requires school districts to screen students for dyslexia and ensure that staff members receive annual training on dyslexia. It further requires the Department of Education to designate a dyslexia specialist, and prohibits the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission from approving a teacher education institution or program unless the program provides at least one course on dyslexia.