

**House File 2138 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2138

BY STAED, HANSON, HUNTER,  
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**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring each area education agency to employ a  
2 dyslexia specialist, subject to an appropriation by the  
3 general assembly.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 273.3, Code 2016, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 25. Beginning July 1, 2017, employ, subject  
4 to an appropriation of funds for such purpose by the general  
5 assembly, at least one dyslexia specialist to provide technical  
6 assistance for dyslexia and related disorders to school  
7 districts and accredited nonpublic schools pursuant to section  
8 273.2, subsection 3, or to school districts under section  
9 273.7, or to school districts and other area education agencies  
10 under section 273.7A. For purposes of this subsection, a  
11 "*dyslexia specialist*" is a person who is trained and certified  
12 in a multisensory structured language program that meets the  
13 level II specialist criteria set forth in the knowledge and  
14 practice standards for teachers of reading published by the  
15 international dyslexia association, and who has a minimum of  
16 three years of field experience in screening, identifying,  
17 and treating dyslexia and related disorders utilizing best  
18 practices for interventions and services.

19 EXPLANATION

20 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
21 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

22 This bill directs the board of directors of each area  
23 education agency (AEA), beginning July 1, 2017, to employ,  
24 subject to an appropriation of funds for such purpose by the  
25 general assembly, at least one dyslexia specialist to provide  
26 technical assistance for dyslexia and related disorders to  
27 school districts and accredited nonpublic schools as a special  
28 education service, or if requested by 60 percent of the  
29 number of local school boards located in the AEA or by school  
30 boards representing 60 percent of the enrollment of all school  
31 districts in the AEA, or under contract with a school district  
32 or other AEA.

33 The bill provides that a "*dyslexia specialist*" is a person  
34 who is trained and certified in a multisensory structured  
35 language program that meets the level II specialist criteria

1 set forth in the knowledge and practice standards for teachers  
2 of reading published by the international dyslexia association,  
3 and who has a minimum of three years of field experience in  
4 screening, identifying, and treating dyslexia and related  
5 disorders utilizing best practices for interventions and  
6 services.