

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 677

5 By: Senator Elliott
6 By: Representative Scott
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES, THE
10 SCIENCE OF READING, AND DYSLEXIA SCREENING AND
11 INTERVENTION SERVICES; TO REQUIRE A YOUTH NEWLY
12 COMMITTED TO THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES TO
13 UNDERGO A READING ASSESSMENT AND DYSLEXIA SCREENING
14 DURING THE INTAKE PROCESS; TO REQUIRE THAT YOUTHS WHO
15 READ BELOW THE REQUIRED PROFICIENCY LEVEL BE PROVIDED
16 WITH APPROPRIATE INTERVENTION SERVICES; TO REQUIRE
17 THAT YOUTHS CURRENTLY COMMITTED TO THE DIVISION OF
18 YOUTH SERVICES RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING DYSLEXIA
19 AND DYSLEXIA INTERVENTION SERVICES; TO REQUIRE THAT
20 AN INDIVIDUAL WHO TEACHES IN THE DIVISION OF YOUTH
21 SERVICES' EDUCATION SYSTEM DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY
22 AND AWARENESS OF THE BEST PRACTICES OF SCIENTIFIC
23 READING INSTRUCTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

27 TO REQUIRE THAT YOUTHS UNDERGO READING
28 ASSESSMENTS AND DYSLEXIA SCREENINGS; TO
29 REQUIRE READING AND DYSLEXIA SERVICES;
30 AND TO REQUIRE THAT DIVISION OF YOUTH
31 SERVICES' TEACHERS KNOW BEST PRACTICES OF
32 SCIENTIFIC READING INSTRUCTION.
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35 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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1 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

2 The General Assembly finds that:

3 (1) The Division of Youth Services is part of the organizational
4 structure of the Department of Human Services and offers a number of programs
5 for juveniles;

6 (2) Among the programs and services offered by the division is
7 an education system, and one (1) of the goals of the education system of the
8 division is to ensure significant academic progress for each juvenile who is
9 served by the division;

10 (3) The mission of the education system of the division is to
11 provide, in a manner consistent with the administration of public education
12 in this state and throughout the country, a system of high quality education
13 programs that address the needs of juveniles who come in contact with the
14 juvenile justice system;

15 (4) To accomplish the mission of the division, the division:

16 (A) Identifies and serves each juvenile with a disability
17 in the division;

18 (B) Improves the individual academic achievement of each
19 juvenile in the education system of the division;

20 (C) Provides an opportunity for progress toward state and
21 local graduation requirements for each high-school-age juvenile in the
22 education system of the division; and

23 (D) Provides an opportunity for postsecondary education
24 preparation for each juvenile who enters with or achieves graduate status
25 while in the education system of the division;

26 (5) The goal of the education system of the division is to
27 coordinate with and not match the public school system in this state, and by
28 offering courses in the core subject areas that meet state standards and
29 graduation requirements, the division offers a consistent opportunity for all
30 juveniles who are involved with the division to make adequate progress
31 towards graduation; and

32 (6) Reading proficiency is the foundation for achieving the goal
33 of the education system of the division and any other education system in
34 this state.

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36 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 9, Chapter 31, is amended to add an

1 additional subchapter to read as follows:

2 Subchapter 5 – Science of Reading

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4 9-31-501. Dyslexia screening – Intervention services.

5 (a) Within thirty (30) calendar days, excluding holidays, of being
6 committed to the Division of Youth Services, a juvenile shall have his or her
7 reading proficiency level assessed and a dyslexia screening shall be
8 delivered with fidelity, as defined in § 6-41-602.

9 (b) If a reading assessment or dyslexia screening under subsection (a)
10 of this section indicates that an individual is reading below the level of
11 proficiency required to be a high-functioning reader, the individual shall be
12 provided:

13 (1) Evidence-based reading intervention based on the science of
14 reading; and

15 (2) Dyslexia intervention that is evidence-based according to
16 the Department of Education’s compilation of appropriate intervention
17 programs under Acts 2019, No. 83.

18 (c) An intervention plan provided for an individual who is reading
19 below the level of proficiency required to be a high-functioning reader under
20 subsection (b) of this section shall be administered with fidelity, as
21 defined in § 6-41-602.

22 (d) Juveniles currently committed to the division shall be:

23 (1) Provided with information that explains what dyslexia is in
24 common and easily understandable language;

25 (2) Offered and encouraged to submit to dyslexia screening; and

26 (3) Provided with dyslexia intervention with fidelity, as
27 defined in § 6-41-602, in the same manner as required for newly committed
28 juveniles under subsection (b) of this section.

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30 9-31-502. Requirements for educators – Science of reading.

31 (a) An individual who teaches nonreaders and juveniles reading at a
32 sixth-grade level or below in the education system of the Division of Youth
33 Services shall:

34 (1) Have and demonstrate proficient knowledge and skills to
35 teach reading consistent with the best practices of scientific reading
36 instruction as required under the Right to Read Act, § 6-17-429; and

1 (2) Administer reading instruction with fidelity, as defined in
2 § 6-41-602.

3 (b) An individual who teaches juveniles reading at a seventh-grade
4 level or above in the education system of the division shall:

5 (1) Have and demonstrate awareness of the best practices of
6 scientific reading instruction as required under the Right to Read Act, § 6-
7 17-429; and

8 (2) Administer reading instruction with fidelity, as defined in
9 § 6-41-602.

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11 9-31-503. Rulemaking authority.

12 The Division of Youth Services:

13 (1)(A) Shall promulgate rules for implementing this subchapter.

14 (B) When adopting the initial rules to implement this
15 subchapter, the final rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State for
16 adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

17 (i) On or before January 1, 2020; or

18 (ii) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred
19 by January 1, 2020, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

20 (C) The division shall file the proposed rule with the
21 Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1,
22 2020, so that the Legislative Council may consider the rule for approval
23 before January 1, 2020; and

24 (2) May consult with the Department of Education and make use of
25 Department of Education resources in order to implement this subchapter.