

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

As Engrossed: S4/4/19

A Bill

SENATE BILL 664

5 By: Senator Elliott
6 By: Representative Scott
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS CORRECTIONAL SCHOOL,
10 THE SCIENCE OF READING, AND DYSLEXIA SCREENING AND
11 INTERVENTION SERVICES; TO REQUIRE A NEWLY COMMITTED
12 INMATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION TO UNDERGO A
13 READING ASSESSMENT AND DYSLEXIA SCREENING DURING THE
14 INTAKE PROCESS; TO REQUIRE THAT INMATES WHO READ
15 BELOW THE REQUIRED PROFICIENCY LEVEL OR DEMONSTRATE
16 MARKERS OF DYSLEXIA BE PROVIDED WITH APPROPRIATE
17 INTERVENTION SERVICES; TO REQUIRE THAT CURRENT
18 INMATES RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING DYSLEXIA AND
19 DYSLEXIA INTERVENTION SERVICES; TO REQUIRE THAT AN
20 INDIVIDUAL WHO TEACHES AT A SCHOOL WITHIN THE
21 CORRECTIONS SCHOOL SYSTEM DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY AND
22 AWARENESS OF THE BEST PRACTICES OF SCIENCE-BASED
23 READING INSTRUCTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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27 *TO REQUIRE THAT NEW INMATES RECEIVE*
28 *READING ASSESSMENTS AND DYSLEXIA*
29 *SCREENINGS; TO REQUIRE READING AND*
30 *DYSLEXIA SERVICES; AND TO REQUIRE*
31 *CORRECTIONS TEACHERS KNOW BEST PRACTICES*
32 *OF SCIENCE-BASED 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 intent.

2 The General Assembly finds that:

3 (1) Individuals undergo a process known as "intake" when
4 entering the Department of Correction system as a new inmate;

5 (2) The intake process for new inmates can take at least three
6 (3) to five (5) days, and sometimes longer in certain situations;

7 (3) During intake, inmates are given an academic examination
8 amongst other relevant examinations;

9 (4) The inmate population of the department is approximately
10 eighteen thousand (18,000);

11 (5) The mission of the department is to:

12 (A) Protect public safety by carrying out the mandate of
13 the courts;

14 (B) Provide a safe and humane environment for all staff
15 members and inmates;

16 (C) Strengthen the work ethic of inmates through teaching
17 and instilling good habits; and

18 (D) Provide opportunities for staff members and inmates to
19 improve spiritually, mentally, and physically; and

20 (6) Part of the mission and vision of the department is to
21 provide correctional services that return inmates to the community as
22 productive people.

23
24 SECTION 2. *Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 29, Subchapter 3, is*
25 *amended to add an additional section to read as follows:*

26 12-29-311. Dyslexia screening – Science of reading – Intervention
27 services.

28 The superintendent of the Arkansas Correctional School shall:

29 (1) Promulgate rules that require:

30 (A) Teachers within the Arkansas Correctional School to
31 have and demonstrate awareness of the best practices of scientific reading
32 instruction as required under the Right to Read Act, § 6-17-429;

33 (B) Each inmate who does not have a high school diploma or
34 its equivalent receive:

35 (i) A reading proficiency-level assessment; and

36 (ii)(a) Dyslexia screening administered with

1 fidelity, as defined under § 6-41-602.

2 (b) If the Arkansas Correctional School
3 provides dyslexia intervention to an inmate who demonstrates under
4 subdivision (1)(B)(ii)(a) of this section that the inmate is reading below
5 the proficiency level required to be a high-functioning reader, the dyslexia
6 intervention the Arkansas Correctional School provides shall be evidence-
7 based and consistent with science-based research specifically tailored to
8 addressing dyslexia; and

9 (C) A process be established by which new-intake inmates
10 are:

11 (i) Assessed and administered a dyslexia screening
12 with fidelity, as defined under § 6-41-602; and

13 (ii) Provided dyslexia intervention with fidelity,
14 as defined under § 6-41-602, that is evidence-based and consistent with
15 science-based research specifically tailored to addressing dyslexia; and

16 (2) Submit a plan to the Department of Correction that allows
17 inmates to voluntarily receive:

18 (A) A reading proficiency-level assessment;

19 (B) Dyslexia screening administered with fidelity, as
20 defined under § 6-41-602; and

21 (C) Reading instruction that is consistent with the
22 science of reading, as provided under the Right to Read Act, § 6-17-429.

23
24 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary language.

25 (a) The superintendent of the Arkansas Correctional School shall
26 comply with:

27 (1) Section 12-29-311(1) by January 1, 2020; and

28 (2) Section 12-29-311(2) by October 1, 2020.

29 (b)(1) When adopting the initial rules to implement § 12-29-311, the
30 final rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State for adoption under §
31 25-15-204(f):

32 (A) On or before January 1, 2020; or

33 (B) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by
34 January 1, 2020, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

35 (2) The superintendent of the Arkansas Correctional School shall
36 file the proposed rule with the Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c)

1 sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2020, so that the Legislative Council
2 may consider the rule for approval before January 1, 2020.

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/s/Elliott