

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 660

5 By: Senator Elliott
6 By: Representative Dotson
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE A NETWORK OF CERTIFIED ACADEMIC
10 LANGUAGE THERAPISTS TO PROVIDE A SPECIALIZED DYSLEXIA
11 INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH
12 DYSLEXIA OR RELATED READING AND WRITTEN-LANGUAGE
13 DIFFICULTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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16
17 TO CREATE A NETWORK OF CERTIFIED ACADEMIC
18 LANGUAGE THERAPISTS TO PROVIDE A
19 SPECIALIZED DYSLEXIA INSTRUCTIONAL
20 PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH
21 DYSLEXIA OR RELATED READING AND WRITTEN-
22 LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 41, Subchapter 6, is amended
28 to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-41-612. Certified Academic Language Therapists.

30 (a) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall:

31 (1) Create a network of Certified Academic Language Therapists
32 to support public schools for the purpose of providing a specialized dyslexia
33 instructional program designed to provide therapy to public school students
34 with dyslexia or related reading and written-language difficulties;

35 (2) Establish and coordinate a dyslexia therapy training program
36 for educators to increase the number of Certified Academic Language



1 Therapists available to provide diagnostic, explicit, systematic,
2 multisensory language intervention that builds a high degree of accuracy,
3 knowledge, and independence for public school students with dyslexia or
4 written-language disorders;

5 (3) Annually convene the network of Certified Academic Language
6 Therapists or dyslexia therapists in order to:

7 (A) Provide updated guidance;

8 (B) Create resources for public schools and parents, legal
9 guardians, and persons standing in loco parentis of public school students;
10 and

11 (C) Review outcomes data for reading in this state; and

12 (4) Coordinate an International Multisensory Structured Language
13 Education Council-accredited course to create additional pathways for
14 certified teachers to develop proficiency in the science of reading in order
15 to grow the network of dyslexia therapists.

16 (b) An education service cooperative may support the implementation of
17 this section by providing additional dyslexia services through a consortium
18 within the region.

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