

CHAPTER 1501

An act to add Sections 44227.7 and 56244 to the Education Code, relating to schools.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 1990. Filed with Secretary of State September 30, 1990.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3040, Speier. Special education: dyslexia.

Existing law requires each school district, special education local plan area, and county office of education to actively and systematically seek out all individuals with exceptional needs, as specified. Existing law defines an individual with exceptional needs as a person who is identified by an individualized education program team as a "handicapped child," as defined in federal law, who cannot be provided with an education through modification of the regular school program, who comes within specified age categories, and who meets eligibility criteria set forth in regulations adopted by the State Board of Education. Federal law includes within the definition of "handicapped children" those who have specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia.

This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with designated persons, to develop program guidelines for use in providing educational services to pupils with dyslexia and related disorders, to be completed no later than the beginning of the 1992-93 academic year. The bill would require the superintendent to disseminate the guidelines, and provide technical assistance, to parents, teachers, administrators and faculty members in certain institutions of higher education.

This bill would set forth statements of the Legislature encouraging institutions of higher education that provide teacher training to emphasize the recognition of, and teaching strategies for, specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia and related disorders, and encouraging local in-service training programs for regular education teachers and special education teachers to include a component in the recognition of, and teaching strategies for, specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia and related disorders.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) The National Institutes of Health states that 10 to 15 percent of our population have learning disabilities.
- (b) In California, dyslexia is a specific language disability that

often goes undetected in many children.

(c) Preservice and in-service programs for regular education and special education teachers in California need to provide more emphasis on recognizing characteristics of pupils with dyslexia and need updated teaching strategies for public school pupils with dyslexia and its related disorders.

(d) Regular education and special education teachers in California do not have state program guidelines available to them as a resource to assist them in identifying, assessing, planning, providing, evaluating, and improving educational services to pupils with dyslexia and its related disorders.

SEC. 2. (a) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop program guidelines for specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia and other related disorders, for use by regular and special educators and parents to assist them in identifying, assessing, planning, providing, evaluating, and improving educational services to pupils. The program guidelines shall include characteristics typical of pupils with dyslexia and related disorders and include strategies for their remediation. The superintendent shall consult with teachers, administrators, other education professionals, medical professionals, parents, and professionals involved in the identification and treatment of specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia and other related disorders. The program guidelines shall be completed in time for use no later than the beginning of the 1992-93 academic year. Once the program guidelines are completed, the superintendent shall disseminate them, and provide technical assistance regarding their use and implementation, to parents, teachers, administrators, and faculty members in teacher training programs of institutions of higher education.

(b) The State Department of Education shall use available discretionary federal funds for the purpose of developing program guidelines as required under subdivision (a).

SEC. 3. Section 44227.7 is added to the Education Code, to read:
44227.7. The Legislature encourages institutions of higher education to provide, in teacher training programs, increased emphasis on the recognition of, and teaching strategies for, specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia and related disorders. Experts in the field of these disabilities should be utilized for that purpose.

SEC. 4. Section 56244 is added to the Education Code, to read:
56244. The Legislature encourages the inclusion, in local in-service training programs for regular education teachers and special education teachers in school districts, special education local plan areas, and county offices of education, of a component on the recognition of, and teaching strategies for, specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia and related disorders.