

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0710.02 Conrad Imel x2313

SENATE BILL 20-180

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Winter and Gonzales,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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Senate Committees  
Judiciary

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DYSLEXIA IN THE  
102 CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Each offender who is sentenced to the department of corrections is required to undergo a diagnostic examination and evaluation. The bill requires those diagnostic services to include screening for indicators of dyslexia. The bill requires the correctional education program to provide scientifically based or evidence-based reading instruction to offenders who may have dyslexia. The department of corrections is required to enter

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.



1 OF THE OFFENDER'S LITERACY PROFICIENCY.

2 (b) THE INTAKE QUESTIONNAIRE AND QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT  
3 TOOL MUST BE ADMINISTERED BY AN EDUCATOR WHO IS TRAINED AND  
4 QUALIFIED TO IDENTIFY AND PROVIDE INTERVENTION TO A PERSON WHO  
5 MAY HAVE DYSLEXIA.

6 (c) THE QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT TOOL MUST BE  
7 EVIDENCE-BASED WITH PROVEN PSYCHOMETRICS FOR VALIDITY AND MUST  
8 INCLUDE EXAMINATION AND EVALUATION IN THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

9 (I) PHONOLOGICAL AND PHONEMIC AWARENESS;

10 (II) SOUND SYMBOL RECOGNITION;

11 (III) ALPHABET KNOWLEDGE;

12 (IV) DECODING SKILLS;

13 (V) RAPID NAMING;

14 (VI) ENCODING SKILLS;

15 (VII) READING FLUENCY;

16 (VIII) VOCABULARY; AND

17 (IX) READING COMPREHENSION.

18 (2) (a) BY JANUARY 31, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SCREEN  
19 FOR DYSLEXIA EACH OFFENDER IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT  
20 WHO WAS NOT SCREENED FOR INDICATORS OF DYSLEXIA AS A PART OF THE  
21 DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES PERFORMED PURSUANT TO SECTION 17-40-103. THE  
22 DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT THIS SCREENING BY ORDER OF OFFENDER  
23 RELEASE DATE, BEGINNING WITH THE EARLIEST RELEASE DATE AND  
24 PROCEEDING IN REVERSE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

25 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31,  
26 2023.

27 **17-32-202. Education for offenders with dyslexia - educator**

1     **training - library services.** (1) (a) THE CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION  
2 PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE EVIDENCE-BASED STRUCTURED READING  
3 LITERACY INSTRUCTION THAT USES EXPLICIT, SYSTEMATIC, AND  
4 CUMULATIVE PRINCIPLES TO ANY PERSON IN A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY  
5 WHO MAY HAVE DYSLEXIA. THE READING INSTRUCTION MUST INCLUDE  
6 ELEMENTS OF PHONOLOGY, SOUND-SYMBOL ASSOCIATION, SYLLABLE  
7 INSTRUCTION, MORPHOLOGY, SYNTAX, AND SEMANTICS. THE READING  
8 INSTRUCTION MUST MEET THE STANDARDS OF THE SCIENTIFICALLY BASED  
9 OR EVIDENCE-BASED READING INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMING DESCRIBED  
10 IN THE "COLORADO READ ACT", PART 12 OF ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 22, AND  
11 BE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR PROVIDING INSTRUCTION TO PERSONS  
12 WHO HAVE DYSLEXIA WITH THE GOAL OF DYSLEXIA REMEDIATION.

13             (b) ANY INSTRUCTION PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION  
14 (1) SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENT TO COMPLETE SEQUENTIAL COURSE WORK  
15 FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 17-32-105 (3).

16             (2) (a) THE CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE  
17 EACH EDUCATOR WHO PROVIDES INSTRUCTION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION  
18 WITH TRAINING IN METHODS THAT MAY BE USED TO IDENTIFY AND  
19 REMEDIATE DYSLEXIA.

20             (b) THE TRAINING MUST ENSURE EACH EDUCATOR IS HIGHLY  
21 QUALIFIED AND PROFICIENT IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

22             (I) THE IDENTIFICATION OF DYSLEXIA;

23             (II) THE FUNDAMENTALS OF READING;

24             (III) METHODS OF INSTRUCTION IN STRUCTURED LITERACY,  
25 INCLUDING ANY NECESSARY INSTRUCTION INTERVENTIONS; AND

26             (IV) THE STRUCTURED READING LITERACY CURRICULUM USED BY  
27 THE PROGRAM.

1 (c) THE FUNDAMENTALS OF READING TRAINING MUST INCLUDE AN  
2 INTENSIVE, SEQUENTIAL, PHONICS-BASED SYSTEM OF HUMAN LANGUAGE  
3 AND A MULTISENSORY, STRUCTURED, SEQUENTIAL, AND CUMULATIVE  
4 UNDERSTANDING OF THE LINGUISTIC RULES IN AN UNDERSTANDABLE  
5 ORDER.

6 (3) (a) AS PART OF THE INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES IT  
7 PROVIDES, THE STATE LIBRARY SHALL PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH  
8 AUDIO BOOKS AND HUMAN READ AUDIO BOOKS WITH HIGHLIGHTED TEXT  
9 SERVICES. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE DEVICES REQUIRED TO  
10 USE SUCH RESOURCES.

11 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE OTHER ASSISTIVE TOOLS  
12 RECOMMENDED FOR USE BY PERSONS WHO HAVE DYSLEXIA.

13 **17-32-203. Literacy consultant.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
14 ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A LITERACY CONSULTANT TO ASSIST THE  
15 DEPARTMENT WITH IMPLEMENTING THE DYSLEXIA SCREENING AND THE  
16 EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION DESCRIBED IN THIS PART 2.

17 (2) THE LITERACY CONSULTANT MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH  
18 DYSLEXIA IDENTIFICATION AND REMEDIATION AND MUST BE APPROVED BY  
19 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AS AN EARLY LITERACY GRANT  
20 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION CONSULTANT.

21 **17-32-204. Reporting.** (1) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136  
22 (11)(a)(I), ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH  
23 DECEMBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE  
24 JUDICIARY COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE,  
25 OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, THE INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN THIS  
26 SECTION.

27 (2) THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

1 CONCERNING THE SCREENING PERFORMED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
2 17-32-201:

3 (a) A LIST OF SCREENING TOOLS, INCLUDING QUESTIONNAIRES,  
4 LITERACY TESTS, AND QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT TOOLS, USED FOR ANY  
5 DYSLEXIA SCREENING;

6 (b) THE NUMBER OF OFFENDERS SCREENED IN THE PRIOR TWELVE  
7 MONTHS; AND

8 (c) THE NUMBER OF OFFENDERS IDENTIFIED TO RECEIVE  
9 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR OFFENDERS WHO MAY HAVE DYSLEXIA.

10 (3) THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION  
11 CONCERNING THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING DESCRIBED IN SECTION  
12 17-32-202:

13 (a) A LIST OF ANY SPECIFIC CURRICULUM USED IN ANY FACILITY  
14 RELATED TO EDUCATION FOR PERSONS WHO MAY HAVE DYSLEXIA;

15 (b) CONCERNING EACH PERSON WHO RECEIVES INSTRUCTION  
16 PURSUANT TO SECTION 17-32-202, AND REPORTED WITHOUT IDENTIFYING  
17 SUCH PERSON:

18 (I) THE NUMBER OF MINUTES OF INSTRUCTION RECEIVED;

19 (II) A REPORT OF THE PERSON'S CURRENT LITERACY PROFICIENCY  
20 AND GROWTH; AND

21 (III) THE PERSON'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND ADULT  
22 BASIC EDUCATION TEST DATES AND SCORES;

23 (c) THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY  
24 COMPLETED A COURSE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION PURSUANT TO  
25 SECTION 17-32-202, AS DETERMINED BY THE EDUCATOR;

26 (d) A SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF ANY EVALUATION OF THE  
27 EDUCATION AND TRAINING DESCRIBED IN SECTION 17-32-202; AND

1 (e) THE TITLE OF ANY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE  
2 RELATED TO DYSLEXIA IDENTIFICATION AND EDUCATION PROVIDED TO  
3 EDUCATORS IN THE PROGRAM, THE NUMBER OF EDUCATORS WHO  
4 RECEIVED SUCH TRAINING, AND THE COST OF SUCH TRAINING.

5 (4) THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF THE SERVICES  
6 PROVIDED BY THE LITERACY CONSULTANT DESCRIBED IN SECTION  
7 17-32-203, THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE  
8 LITERACY CONSULTANT, AND COSTS PAID TO THE CONSULTANT.

9 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 17-40-103, **add** (4)  
10 as follows:

11 **17-40-103. Examination of offenders - report.** (4) BEGINNING  
12 ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2021, THE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES PERFORMED  
13 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MUST INCLUDE SCREENING FOR INDICATORS  
14 OF DYSLEXIA, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 17-32-201.

15 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 17-32-105, **amend**  
16 (5) introductory portion and (8) introductory portion; and **add** (3.5) as  
17 follows:

18 **17-32-105. Development of correctional education program -**  
19 **goals and objectives - performance objectives - evaluation - transfers**  
20 **of custody - reports.** (3.5) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE  
21 EVIDENCE-BASED STRUCTURED READING INSTRUCTION, AS DESCRIBED IN  
22 SECTION 17-32-202, TO ANY PERSON IN A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WHO  
23 MAY HAVE DYSLEXIA. ANY INSTRUCTION PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS  
24 SUBSECTION (3.5) SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENT TO COMPLETE SEQUENTIAL  
25 COURSE WORK FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

26 (5) On or before December 31, 2010, the department shall develop  
27 a plan for each educational or vocational program offered pursuant to this

1 ~~article~~ PART 1 to meet the following performance objectives:

2 (8) The department shall annually report the following  
3 information concerning educational and vocational programs offered  
4 pursuant to this ~~article~~ PART 1:

5 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-2-417, **add** (3) as  
6 follows:

7 **19-2-417. Juvenile detention facilities - behavioral or mental**  
8 **health disorder screening - dyslexia screening - report - repeal.**

9 (3) (a) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
10 SERVICES SHALL IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO SCREEN JUVENILES HELD IN  
11 JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES FOR INDICATORS OF DYSLEXIA. THE  
12 DYSLEXIA SCREENING PROGRAM USED BY THE DEPARTMENT MUST MEET  
13 THE STANDARDS OF THE DYSLEXIA SCREENING PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN  
14 SECTION 17-32-201; EXCEPT THAT THE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED  
15 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY BE ADAPTED TO SCREENING JUVENILES.

16 (b) (I) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2021, THE  
17 DEPARTMENT SHALL SCREEN EACH JUVENILE HELD IN A JUVENILE  
18 DETENTION FACILITY FOR INDICATORS OF DYSLEXIA UPON THE JUVENILE'S  
19 ENTRANCE INTO THE FACILITY.

20 (II) (A) BY JANUARY 31, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SCREEN  
21 FOR DYSLEXIA EACH JUVENILE HELD IN A JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY  
22 WHO WAS NOT SCREENED UPON ENTRANCE INTO THE FACILITY. THE  
23 DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT THIS SCREENING BY ORDER OF THE  
24 JUVENILE'S RELEASE DATE, BEGINNING WITH THE EARLIEST RELEASE DATE  
25 AND PROCEEDING IN REVERSE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

26 (B) THIS SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE  
27 DECEMBER 31, 2023.



1 (c) THE LITERACY CONSULTANT DESCRIBED IN SECTION 19-2-414.5  
2 SHALL ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT WITH DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING  
3 THE SCREENING REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3).

4 (d) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), ON OR  
5 BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH DECEMBER 1  
6 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL REPORT TO  
7 THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND  
8 SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN  
9 SECTION 17-32-204 (2) RELATED TO THE SCREENING PERFORMED  
10 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3).

11 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-2-414, **amend** (2)  
12 as follows:

13 **19-2-414. Facility rules - academic and vocational courses -**  
14 **report.** (2) (a) The academic courses of study and vocational training and  
15 instruction given in the facilities established by section 19-2-403 and  
16 sections 19-2-406 to 19-2-408 shall include those approved by the  
17 department of education for the instruction of pupils in the primary and  
18 secondary schools of the state. Full credit shall be given by school  
19 districts in this state for completion of any semester, term, or year of study  
20 instruction by any juvenile who has earned credit therefor.

21 (b) (I) AS PART OF THE INSTRUCTION GIVEN TO JUVENILES  
22 COMMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT  
23 SHALL PROVIDE READING INSTRUCTION THAT MEETS THE STANDARDS  
24 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 17-32-202 (1) TO SUCH JUVENILES WHO MAY HAVE  
25 DYSLEXIA.

26 (II) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL TRAIN AND  
27 SUPPORT EACH EDUCATOR WHO PROVIDES THE READING INSTRUCTION

1 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b). THE TRAINING MUST  
2 MEET THE EDUCATOR TRAINING STANDARDS DESCRIBED IN SECTION  
3 17-32-202 (2).

4 (III) THE LITERACY CONSULTANT DESCRIBED IN SECTION  
5 19-2-414.5 SHALL ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES WITH  
6 IMPLEMENTING THE READING INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATOR TRAINING  
7 REQUIRED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b).

8 (IV) (A) AS PART OF THE INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES IT  
9 PROVIDES, THE STATE LIBRARY SHALL PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF  
10 HUMAN SERVICES WITH AUDIO BOOKS AND HUMAN READ AUDIO BOOKS  
11 WITH HIGHLIGHTED TEXT SERVICES. THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
12 SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE THE DEVICES REQUIRED TO USE SUCH  
13 RESOURCES.

14 (B) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE OTHER  
15 ASSISTIVE TOOLS RECOMMENDED FOR USE BY PERSONS WHO HAVE  
16 DYSLEXIA.

17 (V) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), ON OR  
18 BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH DECEMBER 1  
19 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE JUDICIARY  
20 COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE, OR ANY  
21 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN SECTION 17-32-204  
22 (3) RELATING TO THE INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING PROVIDED PURSUANT  
23 TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b).

24 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 19-2-414.5 as  
25 follows:

26 **19-2-414.5. Literacy consultant.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF  
27 HUMAN SERVICES SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A LITERACY

1 CONSULTANT TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT WITH IMPLEMENTING THE  
2 DYSLEXIA SCREENING DESCRIBED IN SECTION 19-2-417 AND THE  
3 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN SECTION 19-2-414.

4 (2) THE LITERACY CONSULTANT MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH  
5 DYSLEXIA IDENTIFICATION AND REMEDIATION AND MUST BE APPROVED BY  
6 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AS AN EARLY LITERACY GRANT  
7 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION CONSULTANT.

8 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), ON OR  
9 BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH DECEMBER 1  
10 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL REPORT TO  
11 THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND  
12 SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN  
13 SECTION 17-32-204 (4) RELATING TO THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE  
14 LITERACY CONSULTANT.

15 **SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
16 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
17 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
18 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a  
19 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
20 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
21 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
22 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
23 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
24 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.