

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

STUDY COMMITTEE ON DYSLEXIA SCREENING

**Minutes of the Meeting
November 19, 2019
11:00 a.m., Senate Hearing Room 109**

Members Present:

Senator Paul Boyer, Chair
Senator Sylvia Allen
Senator Lela Alston
Thomas Doebler
Stacy Fretheim
Meriah Houser
Becky Keller

Representative Thomas "T.J." Shope Jr., Co-Chair
Representative Jennifer Pawlik
Dr. Jennifer Kirkpatrick
Sean Ross
Dr. Jan Vesely

Members Excused:

Representative Frank Carroll

Staff:

Jeffrey Ong, Senate Research Analyst
Julia Paulus, Senate Research Assistant Analyst
Chase Houser, House Research Analyst

Chairman Boyer called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. and attendance was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Boyer stated that if there are no corrections, without objection, the Dyslexia Screening Study Committee minutes dated November 5, 2019 will stand approved as distributed.

CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Senator Boyer opened discussion on the following recommendations for the consideration of the Committee:

- Amend A.R.S. § 15-704 (B)(4)(d) to remove nonsense word repetition and instead include nonsense word fluency in the required indicators for dyslexia screening.

The Committee discussed and shared comments on recommendation number one.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Senator Boyer requested a motion on the approval of recommendation number one.

Representative Shope moved that the Dyslexia Screening Study Committee recommends the adoption of legislation that does the following:

- **Amend A.R.S. § 15-704 (B)(4)(d) to remove nonsense word repetition and instead include nonsense word fluency in the required indicators for dyslexia screening.**

The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – (continued)

- Amend A.R.S. § 15-704 (B) to require the Arizona Department of Education to develop a dyslexia screening plan by July 1, 2021, instead of July 1, 2020; and
- Amend A.R.S. § 15-211 (C) to require each school district and charter school to ensure that at least one kindergarten through third grade teacher at each school receives dyslexia training by July 1, 2022, instead of July 1, 2021.

The Committee discussed and shared comments on recommendation number two.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – (continued)

Senator Boyer requested a motion on the approval of recommendation number two.

Representative Shope moved that the Dyslexia Screening Study Committee recommends the adoption of legislation that does the following:

- **Amend A.R.S. § 15-704 (B) to require the Arizona Department of Education to develop a dyslexia screening plan by July 1, 2021, instead of July 1, 2020; and**
- **Amend A.R.S. § 15-211 (C) to require each school district and charter school to ensure that at least one kindergarten through third grade teacher at each school receives dyslexia training by July 1, 2022, instead of July 1, 2021.**

The Committee further discussed and shared comments on recommendation number two.

The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS –
(continued)**

- Recommend establishing a regional training model to increase capacity for teacher training and enhance awareness of the indicators of Dyslexia.

The Committee discussed and shared comments on recommendation number three.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – (continued)

Senator Boyer requested a motion on the approval of recommendation number three.

Representative Shope moved that the Dyslexia Screening Study Committee recommends the adoption of legislation that does the following:

- **Recommend establishing a regional training model to increase capacity for teacher training and enhance awareness of the indicators of Dyslexia.**

The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS –
(continued)**

- Recommend increasing the annual funding to the Arizona Department of Education for the addition of three full-time employees to address the implementation of SB 1318, to provide early literacy professional development to teachers across the state, to augment the Move On When Reading program, and to gather, aggregate, and analyze statewide data related to early literacy and Dyslexia.

The Committee discussed and shared comments on recommendation number four.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – (continued)

Senator Boyer requested a motion on the approval of recommendation number four.

Representative Shope moved that the Dyslexia Screening Study Committee recommends the adoption of legislation that does the following:

- **Recommend increasing the annual funding to the Arizona Department of Education for the addition of three full-time employees to address the implementation of SB 1318, to provide early literacy professional development to teachers**

across the state, to augment the Move On When Reading program, and to gather, aggregate, and analyze statewide data related to early literacy and Dyslexia.

The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – (continued)

- Recommend additional funding to enhance professional development and expand teacher training opportunities, improve screening measures and intervention materials, and provide Tier III intensive instruction for students with language processing disorders, such as Dyslexia.

The Committee discussed their concerns, shared comments and suggested changes to the language on recommendation number five.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – (continued)

Senator Boyer requested a motion on the approval of recommendation number five.

Representative Shope moved that the Dyslexia Screening Study Committee recommends the adoption of legislation that does the following:

- **Recommend additional funding for students with language-based learning struggles such as Dyslexia to enhance professional development and expand teacher training opportunities, improve screening measures and intervention materials, and provide intensive instruction for students categorized as the following:**
 - **Eligible for special education as a student with a specific learning disability in reading and/or writing;**
 - **Eligible for Section 504;**
 - **Documented diagnosis of Dyslexia; or**
 - **Receiving Tier 2 or 3 services.**

The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – (continued)

- Recommend the addition of a reading exam to the certification process to ensure candidates for elementary education certification are prepared for reading instruction.

The Committee discussed their concerns, shared comments and suggested changes to the language on recommendation number six.

The Committee further discussed their concerns, shared comments and suggested adding recommendation number seven.

Senator Boyer clarified with the Committee on considering adding both recommendations and asked if there was any further discussion.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – (continued)

Senator Boyer requested a motion on the approval of recommendation number six and number seven.

Representative Shope moved that the Dyslexia Screening Study Committee recommends the adoption of legislation that does the following:

- **Recommend the consideration of adding a reading exam to the certification process to ensure candidates for elementary education certification are prepared for reading instruction.**
- **Recommend that the Arizona Board of Regents add course requirements and training to support teaching the science of reading.**

The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

Public Testimony

Senator Boyer called for public testimony. However, no one came forward.

Senator Boyer publicly thanked the Committee for their time and providing their expertise for this very worthwhile and critical need that the state has.

Senator Boyer stated the recommendations that were adopted and recommended today will be issued on December 1st to the Speaker, the President and the Secretary of State.

Senator Boyer further stated that as a result of this, myself and Representative Pawlik will be running legislation to ensure that we can get some of these recommendations, hopefully put into law.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Imee L. Andrew
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)