

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.C.R. 20
By: Haywood
Education
2/17/1999
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST

Despite a 1985 State Board of Education law requiring public schools to identify dyslexic students and provide them with appropriate services, many school districts have difficulty recognizing and serving these students. Not every student is screened for dyslexia, and true dyslexia can be confused with other learning disabilities. Consequently, students' needs are not being met. Before recruiting teachers for the identification and teaching of dyslexic students, it is necessary to identify the level of competency required for certification as one qualified in dyslexic education. This legislation would direct the State Board of Education to clarify the necessary staff development training for an educator to be competent in the diagnosis and teaching of students with dyslexia and related disorders.

PURPOSE

As proposed, C.S.S.C.R. 20 submits the following resolutions:

That the 76th Legislature direct the State Board of Education to clarify the staff development training necessary for a competent diagnosis and teaching of students with dyslexia and related disorders.

That the 76th Legislature direct the State Board for Educator Certification to identify certification standards enabling beginning teachers to identify and assist students with dyslexia and related disorders.

That the secretary of state forward an official copy of this resolution to the chair of the State Board of Education and the chair of the State Board for Educator Certification.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

Amends C.S.S.C.R. 20 to clarify that most educator preparation programs and staff development training programs for prospective and classroom teachers fail to provide instruction on the characteristics of learning disabilities. C.S.S.C.R. 20 also directs the State Board for Educator Certification to identify certification standards for beginning teachers, relating to the identification and assistance of students with dyslexia and related disorders.