

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 26 FILED ON: 1/9/2017

SENATE No. 313**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to dyslexia.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>	
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Theodore C. Speliotis</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Solomon Goldstein-Rose</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>Worcester and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Bradford R. Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>

<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Brian Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Joseph A. Boncore</i>	<i>First Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Paul Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>James E. Timilty</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Marc T. Lombardo</i>	<i>22nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

SENATE No. 313

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 313) of Bruce E. Tarr, Jason M. Lewis, Tackey Chan, Josh S. Cutler and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to dyslexia. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)

An Act relative to dyslexia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after section 57 the following section:-

SECTION 57A. (a) For the purposes of this section the following word will have the following meaning:

Neurological Learning Disability: “a specific learning disability, including but not limited to dyslexia, that is neurological in origin with indicators that include but not limited to, difficulty in acquiring language skills; inability to comprehend oral or written language; difficulty in rhyming words; difficulty in naming letters, recognizing letters, matching letters to sounds, and blending sounds when speaking and reading words; difficulty recognizing and remembering sight words; consistent transposition of number sequences, letter reversals, inversions, and substitutes and trouble in replication of content.”

(b) The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall issue guidelines for districts, subject to appropriation, to develop screening procedures or protocols to identify students who possess one or more potential indicators of a neurological learning disability including but not limited to dyslexia.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of Chapter 287 of the Acts of 2012 is hereby amended by inserting after the word “assessments”, in line 40, the following words:-- “, identification of neurological learning disabilities including but not limited to dyslexia”.

SECTION 3. Said section 1 of said chapter 287 of the Acts of 2012 is hereby further amended by inserting after the word “education”, in line 8, the following:-- “The secretary shall appoint 1 member to the panel who represents and/or is a member of a dyslexia advocacy organization.”

SECTION 4. Said section 1 of said chapter 287 of the Acts of 2012 is hereby further amended by inserting after the word “development”, in line 51, the following:-- “; and (7) action steps to implement the research-based recommendations including but not limited to teacher preparation programs contained in reports written by experts in early language and literacy development with respect to reading disabilities including but not limited to dyslexia.