

HOUSE No. 463

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

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 providing screening for dyslexia.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i> | <i>14th Norfolk</i> |
| <i>Chris Walsh</i> | <i>6th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i> | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i> |
| <i>Louis L. Kafka</i> | <i>8th Norfolk</i> |
| <i>Jennifer E. Benson</i> | <i>37th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Colleen M. Garry</i> | <i>36th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Cory Atkins</i> | <i>14th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Sean Garballey</i> | <i>23rd Middlesex</i> |

HOUSE No. 463

By Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 463) of Alice Hanlon Peisch and others for legislation to ensure that each student enrolled in a school district is screened for potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to providing screening for dyslexia.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after section
2 57 the following section:-

3 SECTION 57A. For the purposes of this section the following word will have the
4 following meaning:

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

11 Each district shall ensure that each student enrolled in the school district shall be screened
12 for potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities no later than the first semester of
13 the second grade.

14 The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall promulgate regulations to
15 develop screening procedures or instruments to identify students who possess one or more
16 potential indicators of dyslexia.