

HOUSE No. 4394

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 11, 2018.

The committee on Education to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 330) of Chris Walsh and others relative to defining and providing screening for dyslexia for students and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2872) of Alice Hanlon Peisch and others for legislation to develop screening procedures for students for dyslexia and other potential indicators of neurological learning disabilities, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4394) ought to pass.

For the committee,

ALICE HANLON PEISCH.

HOUSE No. 4394

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to defining and 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.

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

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

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

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