Bill No.: SB-1067
Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO ANALYZE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS GOVERNING DYSLEXIA INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING.
Vote Date: 3/25/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/18/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
This bill would establish a task force to make recommendations to ensure our teachers are being properly educated and receive appropriate in-service training/professional development in order to meet the needs of students with dyslexia.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
No response from Administration

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Senator Cathy Osten, 19th District: Senator Osten strongly supports this bill. Dyslexia effects 15-20% of our population, though proper schooling and instruction can mitigate its symptoms. She believes it’s crucial to take a look at what our state does well and where we can improve in order to best serve all our students.

Allison Van Etten, Director of Special Services, Stonington Public Schools: Ms. Van Etten strongly supports this bill and believes this task force could help better influence our post-secondary institutions. She states the importance of the training of the instructor in order to proficiently help students with dyslexia.

Benjamin Powers, Headmaster of the Southport School: Mr. Powers supports this bill because he believes current legislation is not specific enough about training requirements.
and how the training is implemented. This creates disparity in how literacy programs are enacted, ultimately effecting their success. He believes this bill is important to find how we can support our children and create “equity in access to the written word”.

**Kelly Howard, Parent and Advocate**: Ms. Howard tells a story of her daughter and how through evaluations and instruction outside of her public school system, they were able to diagnose and effectively treat her dyslexia. She speaks to the importance of informed, science based instruction to help all students with dyslexia.

*The Education Committee received over 40 similar pieces of testimony in support of this bill, detailing the importance of quality instruction and training of our educators.*

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

There was no opposition to this bill.

Reported by: Garnet McLaughlin Date: 4/4/2019