



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 427

February Session, 2024

Substitute Senate Bill No. 349

Senate, April 11, 2024

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. WINFIELD of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING DYSLEXIA SCREENING OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INCARCERATED.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 18-81p of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Correction, in consultation with the
4 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Judicial
5 Department, shall annually review, evaluate and make
6 recommendations concerning (1) substance use disorder screening,
7 diagnostic and treatment services that are available to individuals who
8 are incarcerated during the entirety of any period of incarceration; (2)
9 mental health screening, diagnostic and treatment services that are
10 available to individuals who are incarcerated during the entirety of any
11 period of incarceration; and (3) the reintegration of such individuals into
12 the community. On or before January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter,
13 the Commissioner of Correction shall report on such review, in
14 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing

15 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
16 relating to the judiciary, public health and appropriations and the
17 budgets of state agencies.

18 (b) The Commissioner of Correction, in consultation with the Office
19 of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities established under section 10-14z,
20 shall establish and maintain a system for screening for dyslexia of
21 individuals who are incarcerated. The Department of Correction shall:
22 (1) On and after January 1, 2025, complete and assess a screening for
23 dyslexia of each such individual who has not been previously screened
24 for dyslexia by the department not later than sixty days following such
25 individual's intake into a correctional facility, and (2) not later than
26 January 1, 2025, implement procedures to screen for dyslexia each
27 individual who is incarcerated and who has not previously been so
28 screened by the department. Not later than December 1, 2025, the
29 commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
30 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
31 cognizance of matters relating to the Department of Correction
32 concerning the department's compliance with the provisions of
33 subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, or a plan to achieve
34 compliance, if the department is not in compliance with said provisions.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	18-81p

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Correction, Dept.	GF - Cost	200,000	25,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to create and maintain a system for dyslexia screening resulting in an approximate cost of \$200,000 in FY 25 and \$25,000 in FY 26. To meet the requirements of the bill the DOC will have to hire a consultant, purchase screening materials, and train staff. Costs are higher in FY 25 because the entire inmate population will have to be screened in the first year¹, in FY 26 and beyond only new inmates will be screened.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified in FY 26 will continue into the future subject to inflation.

¹The DOC doesn't currently screen for dyslexia and as of 4/1/2024 there are 10,580 inmates in DOC custody.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 349

AN ACT CONCERNING DYSLEXIA SCREENING OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INCARCERATED.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Correction (DOC) commissioner to create and maintain a system for dyslexia screening of people who are incarcerated. The commissioner must do so in consultation with the State Department of Education’s Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities.

Under the bill, starting January 1, 2025, DOC must complete and assess a dyslexia screening for incarcerated people who were not previously screened by the department, within 60 days of their intake. By that same date, DOC also must implement procedures for screening of incarcerated people who were not previously screened.

By December 1, 2025, the DOC commissioner must report to the Judiciary Committee on the department’s compliance, or plan to achieve compliance, with these screening requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 36 Nay 1 (03/26/2024)