**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 87**

*Requesting the Department of Education to study dyslexia screening for kindergarteners. Report.*

Agreed to by the Senate, February 16, 2010
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 9, 2010

WHEREAS, difficulty in learning to read can discourage young students and have a substantial impact on their subsequent school success; and

WHEREAS, some researchers now claim to be able to screen for pre-dyslexia in students as early as kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, such early intervention could allow students to learn to cope with this condition before they become labeled as low achievers or students with special needs and avoid needless stigmatization; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has a great interest in determining whether such early screening is a cost effective and scientifically meaningful method of intervention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Department of Education be requested to study dyslexia screening for kindergarteners.

In conducting its study, the Department shall (i) examine available scientific data on the success of early screening for dyslexia, (ii) consider the cost effectiveness of such strategy, and (iii) make recommendations as to whether such screening is advisable and, if so, the particular method that is most effective.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department for this study, upon request.

The Department of Education shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2010, and shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports no later than the first day of the 2011 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.