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HOUSE BILL NO. 1265

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health on February 15, 2018)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Cline)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-902.1, relating to education preparation programs; reading specialists; dyslexia.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 23.1-902.1 as follows:

§ 23.1-902.1. Education preparation programs; reading specialists; dyslexia.

Each education preparation program offered by a public institution of higher education or private institution of higher education that leads to a degree, concentration, or certificate for reading specialists shall include a program of coursework and other training in the identification of and the appropriate interventions, accommodations, and teaching techniques for students with dyslexia or a related disorder. Such program shall (i) include coursework in the constructs and pedagogy underlying remediation of reading, spelling, and writing; (ii) require supervised practicum hours; and (iii) require reading specialists to demonstrate mastery of an evidence-based, structured literacy instructional approach that includes explicit, systematic, sequential, and cumulative instruction.