

[H.R. 3033, Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia \(READ\) Act, as amended](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Monday, October 26, 2015, the House will consider [H.R. 3033](#), *the Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia (READ) Act*, as amended, under suspension of the rules. H.R. 3033 was introduced on July 13, 2015 by Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) and was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, which ordered the bill reported, as amended, by voice vote on October 8, 2015.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3033 requires the President's annual budget submission to Congress to include a line item for the amount requested for the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Research in Disabilities Education program. The bill also directs the NSF to support dyslexia research and ensure that at least \$5 million of its annual budget is devoted to such research. The bill does not authorize the appropriation of any additional funds for these purposes.

BACKGROUND

Dyslexia is a learning disability manifested by difficulty in learning to read, write or spell. It is the most common learning disability, affecting as many as 90 percent of all individuals identified as learning disabled. Dyslexia affects one out of six Americans, including as many as 8.5 million children and students. Learning strategies for reading is fundamental to realizing the potential of individuals with dyslexia. Dyslexic students often have higher-level thinking abilities, such as the ability to solve complex problems or a higher aptitude for mathematics.

The Research in Disabilities Education program at the NSF supports fundamental and implementation research about learners of all ages with disabilities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The program encourages efforts to understand and address

disability-based differences in STEM education and workforce participation to increase the educational achievement and workforce participation of such individuals.¹

According to Chairman Smith, “despite the prevalence of dyslexia, many Americans remain undiagnosed, untreated and silently struggle at school or work. More research focused on practical applications is the best way to help develop the potential of students. This research includes greater awareness of how to identify students with dyslexia, better curricula, more resources in the hands of parents, teachers, and students, and the development of proven implementation and scaling models for effective interventions. The READ Act will provide an opportunity for a brighter and more productive future for millions of Americans.”²

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has preliminarily estimated that enacting H.R. 3033 will not affect direct spending or revenues.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [Jerry White](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 5-0190.

¹ <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2014/nsf14012/nsf14012.jsp>

² See Press Release—“[Dyslexia Research, National Interest Bills Pass Committee with Bipartisan Support](#),” October 8, 2015.