

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 118, Page 14, Section 167.151, Line 36,
2 by inserting immediately after said line the following:

3 "167.225. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

4 (1) [~~"Blind persons", individuals who:~~

5 ~~———(a) Have a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with conventional correction, or~~
6 ~~have a limited field of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angular~~
7 ~~distance not greater than twenty degrees; or~~

8 ~~———(b) Have a reasonable expectation of visual deterioration; or~~

9 ~~———(c) Cannot read printed material at a competitive rate of speed and with facility due to lack~~
10 ~~of visual acuity;] "Assessment", the National Reading Media Assessment or another research-based,~~

11 assessment or series of research-based, assessments authorized under the Individuals with
12 Disabilities Education Act that determines a student's reading and writing skills, needs, and
13 appropriate reading and writing media, both now and in the future, and addresses the student's
14 academic and functional strengths, deficits, and future needs;

15 (2) "Braille", the system of reading and writing through touch [~~commonly known as~~
16 ~~standard English braille~~];

17 (3) "Student", any student who [~~is blind or any student eligible for special education~~
18 ~~services for visually impaired as defined in P.L. 94-142] has an impairment in vision that, even with~~

19 correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance and who is determined eligible for
20 special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
21 2. All students [~~may~~] shall receive instruction in braille reading and writing as part of their
22 individualized education plan unless, as a result of an assessment, instruction in braille or the use of
23 braille is determined not appropriate for the student. No student shall be denied the opportunity of
24 instruction in braille reading and writing solely because the student has some remaining vision.

25 3. Instruction in braille reading and writing shall be sufficient to enable each student to
26 communicate effectively and efficiently at a level commensurate with his sighted peers of
27 comparable grade level and intellectual functioning. The student's individualized education plan
28 shall specify:

29 (1) How braille will be implemented as the primary mode for learning through integration
30 with normal classroom activities. If braille will not be provided to a child who is blind, the reason

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1 for not incorporating it in the individualized education plan shall be documented therein;

2 (2) The date on which braille instruction will commence;

3 (3) The level of competency in braille reading and writing to be achieved by the end of the
4 period covered by the individualized education plan; and

5 (4) The duration of each session.

6 4. As part of the certification process, teachers certified in the education of blind and
7 visually impaired children shall be required to demonstrate competence in reading and writing
8 braille. The department of elementary and secondary education shall adopt assessment procedures
9 to assess such competencies which are consistent with standards adopted by the National Library
10 Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C."; and

11
12 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
13 accordingly.