

House \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Offered By

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 743, Page 2, Section 163.018, Line 39,  
2 by inserting immediately after said line the following:

3  
4 "167.225. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

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

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

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

10 ~~—— (c) Cannot read printed material at a competitive rate of speed and with facility due to lack~~  
11 ~~of visual acuity;~~

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

14 ~~[(3) (2) "Student", any student who [is blind or any student eligible for special education~~  
15 ~~services for visually impaired as defined in P.L. 94-142] has an impairment in vision that, even with~~  
16 ~~correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance and who is determined eligible for~~  
17 ~~special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.~~

18 2. All students [~~may~~] shall receive instruction in braille reading and writing as part of their  
19 individualized education plan unless the individual education program team determines, after an  
20 evaluation of a student's reading and writing skills, needs, and appropriate reading and writing  
21 media, including an evaluation of the student's future needs for instruction in braille or the use of  
22 braille, that instruction in braille or the use of braille is not appropriate. No student shall be denied  
23 [~~the opportunity of~~] instruction in braille reading and writing solely because the student has some  
24 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~~] the student's sighted  
27 peers of comparable grade level and intellectual functioning. The student's individualized education  
28 plan 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  
31 for not incorporating it in the individualized education plan shall be documented therein;

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

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

35 (4) The duration of each session.

36 4. As part of the certification process, teachers certified in the education of blind and

Action Taken \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 visually impaired children shall be required to demonstrate competence in reading and writing  
2 braille. The department of elementary and secondary education shall adopt assessment procedures  
3 to assess such competencies which are consistent with standards adopted by the National Library  
4 Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C."; and  
5  
6 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references  
7 accordingly.