

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2555

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE RUTH.

6470H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

## AN ACT

To repeal section 167.225, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to school instruction in braille.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 167.225, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 167.225, to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

~~—— (c) Cannot read printed material at a competitive rate of speed and with facility due to lack of visual acuity]~~ **"Assessment", any research-based assessment or series of assessments authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for which the measures are valid and reliable that determine a student's present and future reading and writing skills and academic strengths and deficits;**

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

(3) "Student", any student who ~~[is blind or any student eligible for special education services for visually impaired as defined in P.L. 94-142]~~ **has an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects the student's educational performance and who is**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 **determined eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities**  
18 **Education Act.**

19         2. All students [~~may~~] **shall** receive instruction in braille reading and writing as part of  
20 their individualized education plan **unless, as a result of an assessment, instruction in braille**  
21 **or the use of braille is determined not appropriate for the student.** No student shall be  
22 denied the opportunity of instruction in braille reading and writing solely because the student has  
23 some remaining vision.

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

28             (1) How braille will be implemented as the primary mode for learning through  
29 integration with normal classroom activities. If braille will not be provided to a child who is  
30 blind, the reason for not incorporating it in the individualized education plan shall be  
31 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  
34 the 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  
37 visually impaired children shall be required to demonstrate competence in reading and writing  
38 braille. The department of elementary and secondary education shall adopt assessment  
39 procedures to assess such competencies which are consistent with standards adopted by the  
40 National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress,  
41 Washington, D. C.

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