

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2555
99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6470H.02C

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Section A. Section 167.225, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 167.225, to read as follows: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

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

~~—— (3) (2) "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 determined eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.**

2. All students [~~may~~] **shall** receive instruction in braille reading and writing as part of their individualized education plan **unless the individual education program team determines, after an evaluation of a student's reading and writing skills, needs, and appropriate**

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.

19 **reading and writing media, including an evaluation of the student's future needs for**
20 **instruction in braille or the use of braille, that instruction in braille or the use of braille is**
21 **not appropriate.** No student shall be denied ~~[the opportunity of]~~ instruction in braille reading
22 and writing solely because the student has some remaining vision.

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

27 (1) How braille will be implemented as the primary mode for learning through
28 integration with normal classroom activities. If braille will not be provided to a child who is
29 blind, the reason for not incorporating it in the individualized education plan shall be
30 documented therein;

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

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

34 (4) The duration of each session.

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

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