

HOUSE AMENDMENT NO. _____
TO
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Offered By

AMEND House Amendment No. _____ to Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 650,
Page 2, Line 46, by deleting all of said line and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"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", the National Reading Media Assessment or another research-based assessment or series of research-based assessments authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act that determines a student's reading and writing skills, needs, and appropriate reading and writing media and addresses the student's academic and functional strengths, deficits, as well as the student's current and future educational needs;

(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] is eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and who:

(a) Has an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance;

(b) Has 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 or field.

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

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

Standing Action Taken _____ Date _____

Select Action Taken _____ Date _____

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

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

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

(4) The duration of each session.

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

5. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or sections 162.959 to 162.963, parents of students as defined under subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of section 167.255 shall have the right to:

(1) An independent evaluation at public expense for any agency evaluation, including the assessment established under subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 167.225;

(2) Mediation to allow parents and schools to resolve disagreements involving the IEP teams determination of the need for Braille instruction;

(3) File a due process complaint with the department of elementary and secondary education concerning the proposed action of the agency regarding provision of Braille instruction or any other matter related to the provision of a free appropriate public education to the student which will be forwarded to the Administrative Hearing Commission for an impartial hearing; and

(4) A resolution meeting convened by the school with the parent and the relevant members of the IEP team who have specific knowledge of the facts identified in the due process complaint to discuss the due process complaint and the facts that form the basis of the complaint so that the school and parent have the opportunity to resolve the dispute.

171.031 1. Each school board shall prepare annually a calendar for the school term,"; and

Further amend said amendment, Page 4, Line 14, by inserting after all of said line the following:

"Further amend said bill, Pages 4-5, Section B, Lines 1-5, by deleting all of said lines and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"Section B. Because of the importance of providing financial aid for Missouri high school graduates, section 160.545 of section A of this act is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and is hereby declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and section 160.545 of section A of this act shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval."; and"; and

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

THIS AMENDMENT AMENDS 4342S03.39H