

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 362

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HUMMEL.

Read 1st time January 25, 2017, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

0768S.02I

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Section A. Section 167.225, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 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:

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

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

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

8 (c) Cannot read printed material at a competitive rate of speed and with
9 facility due to lack of visual acuity;] **"Assessment", the National Reading
10 Media Assessment or another research-based, assessment or series of
11 research-based, assessments authorized under the Individuals with
12 Disabilities Education Act that determines a student's reading and
13 writing skills, needs, and appropriate reading and writing media, both
14 now and in the future, and addresses the student's academic and
15 functional strengths, deficits, and future needs;**

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

18 (3) "Student", any student who [is blind or any student eligible for special
19 education services for visually impaired as defined in P.L. 94-142] **has an**

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

20 **impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a**
21 **child's educational performance and who is determined eligible for**
22 **special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities**
23 **Education Act.**

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

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

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

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

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

41 (4) The duration of each session.

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

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