

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. _____

Offered by _____ of _____

Amend SS/SCS/Senate Bill No. 949, Page 1, Section A, Line 3,

by inserting immediately after said line 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;

(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 a child'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

1 reading and writing as part of their individualized education
2 plan unless the individual education program team determines,
3 after an evaluation of the child's reading and writing skills,
4 needs, and appropriate reading and writing media, including an
5 evaluation of the child's future needs for instruction in braille
6 or the use of braille, that instruction in braille or the use of
7 braille is not appropriate. No student shall be denied the
8 opportunity of instruction in braille reading and writing solely
9 because the student has some remaining vision.

10 3. Instruction in braille reading and writing shall be
11 sufficient to enable each student to communicate effectively and
12 efficiently at a level commensurate with [his] the student's
13 sighted peers of comparable grade level and intellectual
14 functioning. The student's individualized education plan shall
15 specify:

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

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

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

25 (4) The duration of each session.

26 4. As part of the certification process, teachers certified
27 in the education of blind and visually impaired children shall be
28 required to demonstrate competence in reading and writing
29 braille. The department of elementary and secondary education

1 shall adopt assessment procedures to assess such competencies
2 which are consistent with standards adopted by the National
3 Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library
4 of Congress, Washington, D. C."; and

5 Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.

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