

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 681

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HUMMEL.

Pre-filed December 1, 2017, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

4760S.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Section A. Section 167.225, RSMo, is repealed and one new section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", any research-based**
10 **assessment or series of assessments authorized under the Individuals**
11 **with Disabilities Education Act for which the measures are valid and**
12 **reliable that determine a student's present and future reading and**
13 **writing skills and academic strengths and deficits;**

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

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

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

20 **special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities**
21 **Education Act.**

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

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

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

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

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

39 (4) The duration of each session.

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

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