
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5284

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senator L. Smith).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to opportunities for instruction in braille; adding
2 a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; and adding a new section to
3 chapter 28A.405 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Each school district in the state and the Washington state
8 school for the blind shall increase their efforts to provide the
9 opportunity to receive instruction in braille to blind students
10 attending school within the district. The instruction shall be
11 provided in a manner that teaches the usefulness and benefits of
12 braille as a system of reading and writing for persons who are blind.
13 If a school district does not provide the opportunity to receive
14 instruction in braille to a blind student, after such services have
15 been requested, the school district shall state in writing why such

1 services were not provided and transmit a copy of the report to the
2 superintendent of public instruction. The school district shall also
3 include information about any students provided with instruction in
4 braille.

5 (2) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions
6 in this section apply throughout this section.

7 (a) "Blind" means:

8 (i) Having a visual acuity of not more than 20/200 in the better
9 eye with correction;

10 (ii) Having a central visual field that subtends an angle of not
11 more than twenty degrees in the better eye with correction;

12 (iii) Having nystagmus in at least one eye; or

13 (iv) Having an eye condition that may develop into a condition
14 meeting either (i), (ii), or (iii) of this subsection (a).

15 (b) "Braille" means the system of raised dots commonly used for
16 reading and writing by the blind in the versions approved by the
17 braille authority of North America including but not limited to the
18 following codes or revisions of codes adopted by the braille authority
19 of North America:

20 (i) Standard english braille, grade two;

21 (ii) The Nemeth braille code for mathematics and science notation,
22 1972 revision;

23 (iii) The revised international manual of braille music notation
24 1956 and the 1975 American addendum; and

25 (iv) The code for computer braille notation, 1987.

26 (c) "Instruction in braille" means instruction in reading braille
27 by touch and in writing braille using the slate and stylus, Perkins
28 braillewriter, and when appropriate, computer software and hardware.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.405
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Within two years after the effective date of this section and
4 thereafter, certificated instructional staff holding certificates or
5 endorsements qualifying them to provide special education services who
6 are providing instruction to blind students in reading or writing shall
7 work towards developing competency in braille.

8 (2) As used in this section, "competency in braille" means having
9 written proof of successful completion of:

10 (a) The course in literary braille for braille transcribers
11 administered by the United States library of congress;

12 (b) Any test created or endorsed by the United States library of
13 congress to certify proficiency of educational personnel in braille;

14 (c) A course for braille transcribers administered by the
15 Washington state regional library for the blind; or

16 (d) A course approved by the state board of education equivalent to
17 the courses in (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection.