
HOUSE BILL 1503

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Ogden, Long, Carlson, G. Cole, Wolfe, L. Johnson, J. Kohl, Wood, R. Johnson, Brough, Casada, Jones, Thibaudeau, Cothorn and Anderson

Read first time 01/29/93. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the instruction in Braille reading and writing
2 to blind students; and adding new sections to chapter 28A.155 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Unless the context clearly requires
5 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 2
6 through 4 of this act.

7 (1) "Legally blind" means:

8 (a) Having a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with
9 conventional correction or having a limited field of vision such that
10 the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angular distance
11 not greater than twenty degrees;

12 (b) Having a physical condition with a medical expectation of
13 visual deterioration; or

14 (c) Being unable to read printed material at a competitive rate
15 with facility due to lack of visual acuity or other visual impairment.

16 (2) "Braille" means the system of reading and writing through touch
17 commonly known as standard English Braille.

18 (3) "Student" means any student who is legally blind or any student
19 eligible for special education services for the visually impaired as

1 defined in the individuals with disabilities education act, 20 U.S.C.
2 Sec. 1400 et seq.

3 (4) "Superintendent" means the superintendent of public
4 instruction.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Students may receive instruction in Braille
6 reading and writing as part of their individualized education program.
7 In the development of this program, there shall be a presumption that
8 proficiency in Braille reading and writing is essential for
9 satisfactory educational progress. No student may be denied the
10 opportunity for instruction in Braille reading and writing solely
11 because the student has some remaining vision.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Instruction in Braille reading and writing
13 shall be sufficient to enable each student to communicate effectively
14 and efficiently at a level commensurate with such student's sighted
15 peers of comparable grade level and intellect. The individualized
16 education program shall specify:

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

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

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

26 (4) The duration of each session of Braille instruction.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The superintendent shall require that
28 special education teachers responsible for the education of legally
29 blind and visually impaired children demonstrate competency in reading
30 and writing Braille. The superintendent shall adopt procedures to
31 assess such competency that are consistent with the standards adopted
32 by the national library service for the blind and physically
33 handicapped.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each
2 added to chapter 28A.155 RCW.

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