

2 **2SHB 1078 - H AMD 027 ADOPTED 1-17-96**

3 By Representatives Ogden, Carlson, and others.

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5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the goal of the legislature to
8 encourage persons who are blind or visually impaired to participate
9 fully in the social and economic life of the state and to engage in
10 remunerative employment. The legislature finds that literacy is
11 essential to the achievement of this goal. Furthermore, the
12 legislature finds that literacy for most persons who are blind or
13 visually impaired means the ability to read and write Braille with
14 proficiency. The legislature sets as a further goal that students who
15 are legally blind or visually impaired shall be given the opportunity
16 to learn Braille in order to communicate effectively and efficiently.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
20 this section apply in section 3 of this act.

21 (1) "Student" means a student who:

22 (a) Has a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with
23 conventional correction or having a limited field of vision such that
24 the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angular distance
25 not greater than twenty degrees;

26 (b) Is unable to read printed material at a competitive rate with
27 facility due to functional visual impairment or lack of visual acuity;
28 or

29 (c) Has a physical condition with a medical prognosis of a
30 significant visual deterioration to the extent that (a) or (b) of this
31 subsection could apply.

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

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
35 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) Each student shall be assessed individually to determine the
2 appropriate learning media for the student including but not limited to
3 Braille.

4 (2) No student may be denied the opportunity for instruction in
5 Braille reading and writing solely because the student has some
6 remaining vision.

7 (3) This section does not require the exclusive use of Braille if
8 there are other special education services to meet the student's
9 educational needs. The provision of special education or other
10 services does not preclude Braille use or instruction.

11 (4) If a student's individualized learning media assessment
12 indicates that Braille is an appropriate learning medium, instruction
13 in Braille shall be provided as a part of such student's educational
14 curriculum and if such student has an individualized education program,
15 such instruction shall be provided as part of that program.

16 (5) If Braille will not be provided to a student, the reason for
17 not incorporating it in the student's individualized education program
18 shall be documented in such plan. If no individualized education
19 program exists, such documentation, signed by the parent or guardian,
20 shall be placed in the student's file.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.405
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 Teachers of visually impaired students shall be qualified according
24 to rules adopted by the state board of education."

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26 By Representative Ogden

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28 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "students;" strike the
29 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter
30 28A.155 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.405 RCW; and creating
31 a new section."

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