

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 739

6  
7 H.P. 595

House of Representatives, February 14, 1983

8 Referred to the Committee on Education, sent up for concurrence and  
9 ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Beaulieu of Portland.

Cosponsors: Senator Najarian of Cumberland, Representative Nelson of  
11 Portland and Senator Hichens of York.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE  
16

17 AN ACT to Designate the Division  
18 of Eye Care as the Local Educational  
19 Agency under the Special Education  
20 Laws.  
21

22 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as  
23 follows:

24 22 MRSA §3502, as amended by PL 1973, c. 307, §3,  
25 is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

26 §3502. Education of blind children

27 The Division of Eye Care shall provide or arrange  
28 for the provision of required specialized services  
29 for blind and vision impaired children outside their  
30 educational placements. In addition, the Division of  
31 Eye Care shall work cooperatively with state, local  
32 and private educational agencies to assure that the  
33 educational and vocational needs of blind and vision

1 impaired children are continuously and comprehen-  
2 sively addressed and met.

3 STATEMENT OF FACT

4 The purpose of this bill is to insure that a con-  
5 tinuity of specialized professional resources is  
6 available to blind and vision impaired children  
7 throughout their educational careers such that their  
8 full academic and vocational potential can be  
9 realized in accordance with the Education of All  
10 Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (PL 94-142), the  
11 Vocational Education Act (PL 94-482) and the Rehabil-  
12 itation Act of 1973 (PL 93-112). The Division of Eye  
13 Care, within the Department of Human Services, Bureau  
14 of Rehabilitation, has maintained the specialized  
15 professional capability to provide appropriate,  
16 legally mandated services to blind and vision  
17 impaired students in a comprehensive manner which  
18 emphasizes a continuity of services. This bill is  
19 required to avoid an arbitrary division of responsi-  
20 bility between the division and the Department of  
21 Educational and Cultural Services which may result in  
22 a fragmentation of the current service delivery sys-  
23 tem for all blind and vision impaired students in  
24 Maine.

25 0517122982