

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
115TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 656, L.D. 935, Bill, "An Act Requiring School Districts to Make Instruction in Braille Reading and Writing Available to Blind Students"

Amend the bill by striking out all of the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Incorporate Braille Reading and Writing in a Blind Student's Individual Education Plan'

Further amend the bill in the first line after the enacting clause (page 1, line 3 in L.D.) by inserting at the beginning the following: 'Sec. 1.'

Further amend the bill in that part designated "~~§4708.~~" in subsection 1 by striking out all of paragraph A.

Further amend the bill in that part designated "~~§4708.~~" in subsection 1 by relettering the paragraphs to read consecutively.

Further amend the bill in that part designated "~~§4708.~~" by striking out all of subsections 2 to 4 and inserting in their place the following:

'2. Level of instruction; individualized education plan. Instruction in Braille reading and writing for a student who has been evaluated as needing Braille through the individualized education plan should be sufficient to enable each student to communicate effectively and efficiently at that student's intellectual level. The individualized education plan for each student who has been evaluated as needing Braille must specify:

A. The method of implementation utilizing Braille as a primary mode of learning through integration with normal classroom activities; and

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2 B. The level of competency in Braille reading and writing to
3 be achieved by the end of the period covered by the
4 individualized education plan.

6 3. Certification. The department shall report to the joint
7 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
8 education matters by January 15, 1992 on the status of national
9 efforts to certify teachers of blind and visually impaired
10 students.

12 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §7201, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

14 5. Blind students; Braille instruction. All students may
15 receive instruction in Braille reading and writing as part of
16 their individualized education plans. A student may not be
17 denied the opportunity of instruction in Braille reading and
18 writing solely because the student has some remaining vision. If
19 Braille is not provided to a child who is blind, the reason for
20 not incorporating Braille in the individualized education plan
21 must be documented in the individualized education plan.

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FISCAL NOTE

26 This bill requires the Department of Education to report to
27 the Legislature on the status of national efforts to certify
28 teachers of blind and visually impaired students. The costs
29 associated with this report can be absorbed within current
30 budgeted resources of the Department of Education.'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

36 This amendment does the following:

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1. Deletes the definition of "blind";

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2. Moves the language concerning the availability of
Braille instruction to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A,
chapter 303 and adds a provision requiring that the
individualized education plan of a blind student not receiving
Braille instruction include a statement explaining why;

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3. Limits the provisions concerning the level of
instruction in Braille to students who have been evaluated as
needing instruction in Braille through the individualized
education plan and changes the level of instruction provision
from a requirement to a suggestion;

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 656, L.D. 935

- 2 4. Deletes the requirements that the date on which Braille
instruction begins and the duration of each session of Braille
4 instruction must be included in each individualized education
plan;
- 6 5. Replaces the certification process requirement with a
provision directing the Department of Education to report by
8 January 15, 1992 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education on
the status of national efforts to certify teachers of the blind;
10 and
- 12 6. Adds a fiscal note to the bill.

Reported by the Committee on Education
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the
House
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