

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5687

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Education, January 16, 1996

Title: An act relating to the instruction in Braille reading and writing to blind students.

Brief Description: Changing provisions relating to instruction in Braille.

Sponsors: Senators Long, Rasmussen, Johnson, Bauer, Kohl, Finkbeiner, Fairley, C. Anderson, Hochstatter, Gaspard, Pelz, Prince and Winsley.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Education: 2/23/95, 2/28/95 [DPS-WM]; 1/16/96 [DP2S].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Majority Report: That Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5687 be substituted therefor, and the second substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators McAuliffe, Chair; Goings, Vice Chair; Finkbeiner, Hochstatter, Johnson, Pelz and Rasmussen.

Staff: Leslie Goldstein (786-7424)

Background: The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (originally enacted in 1975 as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act) requires that states accepting federal funds provide a free and appropriate public education for all children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment. The federal law requires that related services be provided if the services are needed to help a child with a disability benefit from special education. Children with disabilities in Washington must have the opportunity for an appropriate education under state law, federal law, and the Washington State Constitution.

An individual education program must be developed for all special education students. Instruction in Braille is provided only for visually impaired or blind students if such instruction is required in the student's individual education program.

Summary of Second Substitute Bill: It is a stated goal that students who are legally blind or visually impaired be given the opportunity to learn Braille to communicate effectively and efficiently.

A student who must be assessed to determine if Braille is needed includes a student who: