

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 522
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 29, 2019; February 14, 2019,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Education;
 1-4 March 27, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 11,
 1-5 Nays 0; March 27, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Taylor	X			
1-8 Lucio	X			
1-9 Bettencourt	X			
1-10 Campbell	X			
1-11 Fallon	X			
1-12 Hall	X			
1-13 Hughes	X			
1-14 Paxton	X			
1-15 Powell	X			
1-16 Watson	X			
1-17 West	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the development of an individualized education program
 1-22 for a public school student with a visual impairment.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 30.002, Education Code, is amended by
 1-25 amending Subsection (f) and adding Subsection (f-1) to read as
 1-26 follows:

1-27 (f) In the development of the individualized education
 1-28 program for a ~~[functionally blind]~~ student with a visual
 1-29 impairment, proficiency in ~~[braille]~~ reading and writing is a
 1-30 significant indicator of [presumed to be essential for] the
 1-31 student's satisfactory educational progress. The individualized
 1-32 education program for a student with a visual impairment must
 1-33 include instruction in [Each functionally blind student is entitled
 1-34 to] braille and the use of braille unless the student's admission,
 1-35 review, and dismissal committee determines and documents that
 1-36 braille is not an appropriate literacy medium for the student. The
 1-37 committee's determination must be based on an evaluation of the
 1-38 student's appropriate literacy media and literacy skills and the
 1-39 student's current and future instructional needs [reading and
 1-40 writing instruction that is sufficient to enable the student to
 1-41 communicate with the same level of proficiency as other students of
 1-42 comparable ability who are at the same grade level]. Braille
 1-43 instruction:

1-44 (1) may be used in combination with other special
 1-45 education services appropriate to the student's educational needs;
 1-46 and

1-47 (2) shall be provided by a teacher certified to teach
 1-48 students with visual impairments[. The assessment of each
 1-49 functionally blind student for the purpose of developing the
 1-50 student's individualized education program must include
 1-51 documentation of the student's strengths and weaknesses in braille
 1-52 skills].

1-53 (f-1) Each person assisting in the development of the [a
 1-54 functionally blind student's] individualized education program for
 1-55 a student with a visual impairment shall receive information
 1-56 describing the benefits of braille instruction. [Each functionally
 1-57 blind student's individualized education program must specify the
 1-58 appropriate learning medium based on the assessment report and
 1-59 ensure that instruction in braille will be provided by a teacher
 1-60 certified to teach students with visual impairments. For purposes
 1-61 of this subsection, the agency shall determine the criteria for a

2-1 ~~student to be classified as functionally blind.]~~

2-2 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020
2-3 school year.

2-4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-8 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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