

HB 559 -- Electronic Text Materials for Public Schools

Sponsor: Grisamore

Currently, all public schools through the postsecondary level must give preference to textbook vendors who make Braille or computer-readable formats available for a cost no greater than regular materials. This bill changes the laws to include print instructional materials at the elementary and secondary levels, requiring their purchase in accessible electronic text when the material meets curricular needs if it does not impose an undue burden. All public elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools have the right to transcribe, render, reproduce, and distribute print instructional materials in specialized formats solely for use by students with disabilities who are entitled to the formats under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Missouri Assistive Technology Advisory Council within the Office of Administration is required to at least annually identify and approve currently available accessible electronic text formats, identify vendors, and disseminate vendor information to elementary and secondary schools.