

HB 1003 -- INSTRUCTION IN BRAILLE

SPONSOR: Hummel

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education by a vote of 12 to 0. HCS voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, state law permits students to receive instruction in Braille as part of their individualized education plans (IEPs). This bill requires a student to receive instruction in Braille reading and writing as part of his or her IEP unless, as a result of an assessment, instruction in Braille or the use of Braille is determined not appropriate for the child.

This bill defines "Assessment" as the National Reading Media Assessment to another research-based assessment or series of research-based assessments under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act that determines a child's learning media skills.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill puts a mechanism in place that will ensure proper assessment and access to Braille education for visually impaired and blind students in Missouri, which will subsequently increase these students' employment opportunities.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hummel; Missouri National Federation Of The Blind; Ronda Dameron; Kendra Dameron; Columbia Federation Of The Blind; and National Federation Of Blind Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.