



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 418**

LCO No. 2068

\* SB00418HS 031308 \*

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:  
(HS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE HIRING OF SUPPORT STAFF FOR  
TEACHERS OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 10-295 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2008*):

4 (b) The Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall expend  
5 funds for the services made available pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
6 section from the educational aid for blind and visually handicapped  
7 children account in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.  
8 The expense of such services shall be paid by the state in an amount  
9 not to exceed six thousand four hundred dollars in any one fiscal year  
10 for each child who is blind or visually impaired. The Board of  
11 Education and Services for the Blind may adopt such regulations as it  
12 deems necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of this subsection.

13 (1) The Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall provide,  
14 upon written request from any interested school district, the services of  
15 teachers of the visually impaired, based on the levels established in the

16 individualized education or service plan. The agency shall also make  
17 available its resources, including, but not limited to, the Braille and  
18 large print library, to all teachers of public and nonpublic school  
19 children. The agency may also provide vision-related professional  
20 development and training to all school districts and cover the actual  
21 cost for paraprofessionals from school districts to participate in  
22 agency-sponsored Braille training programs. The agency shall utilize  
23 education consultant positions authorized as of July 1, 2001, funded by  
24 moneys appropriated from the General Fund, to supplement new  
25 staffing that will be made available through the educational aid for the  
26 blind and visually handicapped children account, which shall be  
27 governed by formal written policies established by the agency.

28 (2) The Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall use  
29 funds appropriated to said account, first to provide specialized books,  
30 materials, equipment, supplies, adaptive technology services and  
31 devices, specialist examinations and aids, preschool programs and  
32 vision-related independent living services, excluding primary  
33 educational placement, for eligible children without regard to a per  
34 child statutory maximum.

35 (3) The Board of Education and Services for the Blind may, within  
36 available appropriations, employ certified teachers of the visually  
37 impaired in sufficient numbers to meet the requests for services  
38 received from school districts. In responding to such requests, the  
39 agency shall utilize a formula for determining the number of teachers  
40 needed to serve the school districts, crediting six points for each  
41 Braille-learning child and one point for each other child, with one full-  
42 time certified teacher of the visually impaired assigned for every  
43 twenty-five points credited. The agency shall exercise due diligence to  
44 employ the needed number of certified teachers of the visually  
45 impaired, but shall not be liable for lack of resources. Funds  
46 appropriated to said account may also be utilized to employ  
47 rehabilitation teachers, rehabilitation technologists and orientation and  
48 mobility teachers in numbers sufficient to provide compensatory skills

49 evaluations and training to blind and visually impaired children. In  
50 addition, up to five per cent of such appropriation may also be utilized  
51 to employ special assistants to the blind and other support staff  
52 necessary to ensure the efficient operation of service delivery. Not later  
53 than October first of each year, the Board of Education and Services for  
54 the Blind shall determine the number of teachers needed based on the  
55 formula provided in this subdivision. Based on such determination the  
56 Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall estimate the  
57 funding needed to pay such teachers' salaries, benefits and related  
58 expenses.

59 (4) In any fiscal year, when funds appropriated to cover the  
60 combined costs associated with providing the services set forth in  
61 subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection are projected to be  
62 insufficient, the Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall be  
63 authorized to collect revenue from all school districts that have  
64 requested such services on a per student pro rata basis, in the sums  
65 necessary to cover the projected portion of these services for which  
66 there are insufficient appropriations.

67 (5) Remaining funds in said account, not expended to fund the  
68 services set forth in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, shall be  
69 used to cover on a pro rata basis, the actual cost with benefits of  
70 retaining a teacher of the visually impaired, directly hired or  
71 contracted by the school districts which opt to not seek such services  
72 from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, provided such  
73 teacher has participated in not less than five hours of professional  
74 development training on vision impairment or blindness during the  
75 school year. Reimbursement shall occur at the completion of the school  
76 year, using the caseload formula denoted in subdivision (3) of this  
77 section, with twenty-five points allowed for the maximum  
78 reimbursable amount as established by the agency annually.

79 (6) Remaining funds in such account, not expended to fund the  
80 services set forth in subdivisions (2), (3) and (5) of this subsection, shall  
81 be distributed to the school districts on a pro rata formula basis with a

82 two-to-one credit ratio for Braille-learning students to non-Braille-  
83 learning students in the school district based upon the annual child  
84 count data provided pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
85 provided the school district submits an annual progress report in a  
86 format prescribed by the agency for each eligible child.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-295(b)

**HS**      *Joint Favorable*