

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 168
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Author:	Sen. Simpson
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Bill Analysis

SB 168 creates the Blind Persons Literacy Rights and Education Act. The measure directs schools to provide for Braille instruction as the school designs an individual education plan (IEP) for a student with a visual impairment. Unless the school determines Braille to be inappropriate for the student, the IEP must outline the timing, instruction methods, and evaluations made to determine a student's writing and reading skills.

The measure requires all teachers certified to teach students with a visual impairment to demonstrate competency in reading and writing Braille beginning July 1, 2020. Any teacher certified to teach students with a visual impairment who fails to demonstrate competency will not be eligible for renewal of their certification. Additionally, the State Department of Rehabilitation Services shall require electronic versions of textbooks to encode the text in a manner suitable for conversion into Braille or synthesized speech.

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