

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 149**

Introduced by Avery, 28.

Read first time January 07, 2011

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to special education; to adopt the Blind Persons

2 Literacy Rights and Education Act.

3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Sections 1 to 3 of this act shall be known and  
2 may be cited as the Blind Persons Literacy Rights and Education Act.

3           Sec. 2. For purposes of the Blind Persons Literacy Rights  
4 and Education Act:

5                 (1) Blind and visually impaired has the definition found  
6 in section 79-1118.01; and

7                 (2) Braille means a system of reading and writing through  
8 touch commonly known as Standard English Braille.

9           Sec. 3. A teacher employed by or under contract with a  
10 school district, educational service unit, other education agency, or  
11 the State Department of Education who teaches blind or visually  
12 impaired children shall demonstrate competence in reading and writing  
13 braille. Such competence may be demonstrated by:

14                 (1) Possession by the teacher of an active National  
15 Certification in Literary Braille from the National Blindness  
16 Professional Certification Board by the 2012-13 school year, and such  
17 certification shall be paid for by the individual; or

18                 (2) Passing an examination developed and administered by  
19 the State Department of Education which includes, but need not be  
20 limited to, braille writing using a braille writer, braille writing  
21 using a slate and stylus, proofreading, identifying braille errors,  
22 correct usage and rules, and other matters determined by the  
23 department to demonstrate competence to provide instruction in  
24 braille. Such examination shall be no less stringent than the  
25 examination to obtain a National Certification in Literary Braille

1 described in subdivision (1) of this section.