

## CHAPTER 726

S.B. No. 1363

## AN ACT

relating to the provision of educational materials in the public schools to blind or visually handicapped students.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subsection (e), Section 12.03, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) The Central Education Agency shall require a publisher of a textbook *that is adopted by the State Board of Education to furnish the agency with computerized textbook files for the production of Braille textbooks if such computerized textbook files are requested by the State Board of Education. Publishers will arrange the computerized textbook files in one of several optional formats specified by the State Board of Education* [~~computer diskettes for literary subjects in the American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) from which Braille versions of the textbook can be produced. The publisher will furnish the agency with computer diskettes in ASCII for non-literary subjects, e.g., natural sciences, computer science, mathematics, and music, when Braille specialty code translation software is available~~].

SECTION 2. Subdivisions (3) and (6), Subsection (e-1), Section 12.03, Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(3) Public members of the commission *who are not employed by publishing companies that have contracts with the Central Education Agency are* [~~shall serve at their own expense and are not~~] entitled to reimbursement by the state for their *actual transportation and lodging expenses related to participation in the commission's activities, provided funds are available for such reimbursement from gifts and grants received by the Central Education Agency. The Central Education Agency may accept gifts and grants to provide the reimbursement under this subdivision. The Central Education Agency shall deposit the gifts and grants in the state treasury to the credit of a special fund to be used only for reimbursement under this subdivision.* Representatives of a state agency shall be reimbursed from the funds of that agency.

(6) Unless continued in existence by further Acts of the Texas Legislature, the commission is abolished on September 1, 1995 [1993].

SECTION 3. Section 12.03, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(f) *The State Board of Education is authorized to produce in Braille ancillary and supplementary instructional materials that accompany state adopted textbooks. Publishers of these materials shall not be required to provide electronic files for ancillary or supplementary materials.*

SECTION 4. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on May 10, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 26, 1993, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 16, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.