

Senate Bill No. 181

CHAPTER 203

An act to amend Sections 56026.5 and 56350 of the Education Code, relating to special education.

[Approved by Governor July 30, 1995. Filed with
Secretary of State July 31, 1995.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 181, Ayala. Special education.

(1) Existing law defines "low incidence disability" for purposes of provisions of law pertaining to special education and related services as a severe disabling condition, including vision impairments, with an expected incidence rate of less than 1% of the total statewide enrollment in kindergarten through grade 12.

This bill would provide that, for purposes of the definition of "low incidence disability," vision impairments do not include disabilities within the function of vision as set forth in a specified provision of law defining "specific learning disability."

(2) Existing law defines a "visually impaired pupil" for purposes of provisions of law pertaining to individualized education programs for those pupils.

This bill would provide that the aforementioned definition of "visually impaired pupil" does not include a pupil who is eligible for special education based on a specified learning disability identified pursuant to a specified provision of law.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 56026.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

56026.5. "Low incidence disability" means a severe disabling condition with an expected incidence rate of less than one percent of the total statewide enrollment in kindergarten through grade 12. For purposes of this definition, severe disabling conditions are hearing impairments, vision impairments, and severe orthopedic impairments, or any combination thereof. For purposes of this definition, vision impairments do not include disabilities within the function of vision specified in Section 56338.

SEC. 2. Section 56350 of the Education Code is amended to read:

56350. Unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions set forth in this section shall govern the construction of this article.

(a) A "functionally blind pupil" means a pupil who relies basically on senses other than vision as major channels for learning.



(b) A “pupil with low vision” means a pupil who uses vision as a channel for learning, but who may also benefit from instruction in braille.

(c) A “visually impaired pupil” means a pupil who is functionally blind or a pupil with low vision. For purposes of this article, a “visually impaired pupil” does not include a pupil who is eligible for special education and related services based on a specific learning disability identified pursuant to Section 56338.

(d) “Braille” means the system of reading and writing through touch commonly known as “Standard English Braille, American Edition.”

