

CHAPTER 335

(House Bill 377)

AN ACT concerning

Education - Instructional Materials in Nonvisually Accessible Media

FOR the purpose of requiring certain publishers to furnish certain instructional resource centers with certain electronic instructional materials; and generally relating to individualized education programs.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Education

Section 8-408(d)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Education

8-408.

(d) (1) The Department shall develop procedures to coordinate the statewide availability of textbooks and supplementary instructional materials in nonvisually accessible media.

(2) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE A PUBLISHER OF A TEXTBOOK, INCLUDING TEXTS IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA ADOPTED BY A COUNTY BOARD TO FURNISH, UPON REQUEST, THE INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION WITH AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE MATERIAL PUPIL EDITION TEXTBOOKS FOR LITERARY SUBJECTS, AND FOR NONLITERARY SUBJECTS WHEN THE TECHNOLOGY IS AVAILABLE TO CONVERT NONLITERARY SUBJECT TEXTBOOKS TO A FORMAT COMPATIBLE WITH BRAILLE TRANSLATIONS SOFTWARE, IN WHICH THE CONTENT:

(I) IS ENCODED IN TEXT SUITABLE FOR CONVERSION INTO BRAILLE OR SYNTHESIZED SPEECH; AND

(II) HAS BEEN PREPARED USING A MARKUP LANGUAGE THAT MAINTAINS THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THE INFORMATION AND CAN BE PROCESSED BY BRAILLE TRANSLATION SOFTWARE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1999.

Approved May 13, 1999.