

EXHIBIT 15
DATE 2-16-05
HB 438

HB 438 Amendments

The Montana Association for the Blind worked together with the Office of Public Instruction and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind to come up with the following amendments

1. To appropriate 4 new positions within the MT School for the Deaf and Blind: 2 positions are for out reach to work with schools to identify students who need special assistance and developing IEP's. 2 positions who are Braille specialists to work with school district to help school districts who have not experience with Braille or students with visual impairment.
2. A \$40,000 appropriation to purchase Braille equipment that can be used on a temporary basis. MT School for the Deaf and Blind will administer the equipment loan program. A school district can utilized the equipment but must at some point purchase like equipment.
3. The bill has been amended in a number of place to reflect the federal IDEA legislation. For example in Section 4 instruction in Braille must be in accordance with IDEA. What was stricken was verbage that was in IDEA so we struck it to eliminate redundancy. The same is truly in Section 3, 5 and 7.
4. Section 6 was amended to require the Board of Public Instruction to establish standards to ensure that individuals who provide Braille instruction are appropriately trained and supervised.

These are the major changes to HB 438 that all parties worked on and came to agreement.

Prepared by Carl Schweitzer, Representing the Montana Association for the Blind