

18A: 74-4.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 18A:74-4.1 (Optical scanners for blind--appropriate  
\$160,000)  
LAWS 1981 CHAPTER 225  
Bill No. A1352 (Substituted for S1186) (not attached since identical to A1352)  
Sponsor(s) Villane and others  
Date Introduced March 13, 1980  
Committee: Assembly Education, Institutions, Health and Welfare  
Senate Revenue, Finance and Appropriations

Amended during passage Yes ~~No~~ Amendments denoted by asterisks  
according to Governor's recommendations:  
Date of Passage: Assembly Sept. 29, 1980 Re-enacted 6-22-81  
Senate Feb. 9, 1981 Re-enacted 6-29-81

Date of approval July 27, 1981

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement	Yes	<del>No</del>	
Committee Statement: Assembly	Yes	<del>No</del>	
Senate	Yes	<del>No</del>	11-24-80 & 1-22-81
Fiscal Note	<del>Yes</del>	No	
Veto Message	Yes	<del>No</del>	
Message on signing	Yes	<del>No</del>	

Following were printed:

Reports	<del>Yes</del>	No
Hearings	<del>Yes</del>	No

Attached: New York's optical scanner law.

6/22/81

225 81  
7-27-81  
[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]  
ASSEMBLY, No. 1352

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 13, 1980

By Assemblymen VILLANE, McMANIMON, SAXTON, CARDINALE, Assemblywoman GLUCK, Assemblymen BENNETT, CODEY and SNEDEKER

Referred to Committee on Education

AN ACT providing for the purchase of optical scanners for use by the blind and visually impaired, supplementing chapter 74 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation therefor.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. The Commissioner of Education *\*after consultation with the*  
2 *Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired\** shall purchase  
3 and provide to **\*[each designated area library]\*** *\*designated area*  
4 *libraries or other public facilities accessible to the blind or visually*  
5 *impaired that may be appropriate\** an optical scanner, which con-  
6 verts printed materials into synthetic speech for the benefit of the  
7 blind and visually impaired. The commissioner shall provide for  
8 the training of **\*[library]\*** personnel in the proper use of these  
9 devices.

1 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Education the  
2 sum of **\*[\$550,000.00]\*** *\*\$160,000.00\** or so much thereof as is  
3 necessary, to carry out the provisions of this act.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1352

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 13, 1980

By Assemblymen VILLANE, McMANIMON, SAXTON, CARDINALE, Assemblywoman GLUCK, Assemblymen BENNETT, CODEY and SNEDEKER

Referred to Committee on Education

AN ACT providing for the purchase of optical scanners for use by the blind and visually impaired, supplementing chapter 74 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation therefor.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. The Commissioner of Education shall purchase and provide  
2 to each designated area library an optical scanner, which converts  
3 printed materials into synthetic speech for the benefit of the blind  
4 and visually impaired. The commissioner shall provide for the  
5 training of library personnel in the proper use of these devices.

1 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Education the  
2 sum of \$550,000.00 or so much thereof as is necessary, to carry out  
3 the provisions of this act.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

### STATEMENT

This bill, similar to one recently enacted in the state of New York, provides for the placement of optical scanners in each of the 26 currently designated area libraries in the State. The optical scanner, which translates written word into spoken word, provides for improved access to educational and recreational reading materials for thousands of our visually handicapped citizens.

Although this bill appropriates the sum of \$550,000.00 it should be noted that this amount includes the cost of training and installation as well as actual purchase. The cost per machine is expected to decrease substantially due to current increased production of this relatively new design and by negotiation through bulk order. The need for a somewhat lesser amount than the original appropriation will likely result.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1352

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 30, 1980

PROVISIONS:

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 1352 which requires the Commissioner of Education to purchase and provide an optical scanner for each area library. \$550,000.00 is appropriated for the purchase of such scanners.

BACKGROUND:

The optical scanner converts printed material into synthetic speech. By placing optical scanners in the 26 regional libraries information from printed materials will be available to blind individuals without having to depend upon volunteer readers, or converting the materials into braille or talking books. The 26 regional libraries, known as "Area" Libraries, are located so that no person desiring to use an optical scanner will have to travel more than 30 minutes.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are 26 area libraries in the State. One of the libraries has already purchased a scanner, and another is considering the purchase of one. The scanners cost approximately \$23,000.00.

SENATE INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1352

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 24, 1980

The bill provides for the purchase of optical scanners and their installation in 26 area libraries throughout the State. The optical scanner translates written word to spoken word for the benefit of the visually impaired. The bill appropriates \$550,000.00.

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SENATE REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1352**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 22, 1981

Assembly Bill Number 1352 appropriates \$550,000.00 to the Department of Education to provide each area library in the State with an optical scanner which benefits the blind. The Commissioner of Education is also charged with the responsibility for training library personnel in the proper use of the scanners.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

June 15, 1981

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1352

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 1, paragraph 14(b) of the Constitution, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 1352 with my objections for reconsideration.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to provide in each of the State's 26 designated area libraries an optical scanner, which converts printed materials into synthetic speech for the benefit of the blind and visually impaired. Library personnel are to be trained in the proper use of the device. The bill appropriates \$550,000 to the Department of Education for this purpose.

While I support a program of providing optical scanners throughout the State, we do not have sufficient State revenues, in light of other demands, to fund the full amount of this supplemental appropriation. I recommend that we start with an appropriation of \$160,000. That sum should enable purchase of about seven such machines which I am advised is the minimum number necessary for a meaningful initiation of such a program. In addition, I would like to see more flexibility in fixing the location of such equipment and to require consultation with the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired in order to assure that the optical scanners are put in the most useful locations.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 1352 for reconsideration and recommend that it be amended as follows:

- Page 1, Section 1, line 1: After "Education" insert "after consultation with the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired."
- Page 1, Section 1, line 2: Delete "each designated area library" and insert "designated area libraries or other public facilities accessible to the blind or visually impaired that may be appropriate."
- Page 1, Section 1, line 5: Delete "library"
- Page 1, Section 2, line 2: Delete "\$550,000" and insert "\$160,000".

Respectfully,

/s/ Brendan Byrne

GOVERNOR

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Harold L. Hodes

Chief of Staff, Secretary

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 27, 1981

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

KATHRYN FORSYTH

Governor Brendan Byrne today signed a bill requiring the installation of optical scanners -- machines which convert printed materials into synthetic speech to aid the blind and visually impaired -- in designated area libraries or other appropriate public facilities accessible to visually impaired people.

The bill, A-1352, was sponsored by Assemblyman Anthony Villane (D-Monmouth). The Governor signed the bill in a public ceremony in his office.

The bill appropriates \$160,000 which should allow the Department of Education to purchase seven machines and train library personnel in their proper use.

Governor Byrne conditionally vetoed the original measure which appropriated \$550,000 on June 15, saying that while he supported the program and the concept, the state did "not have sufficient revenues, in light of other demands, to fund the full amount of the supplemental appropriation."

He said the \$160,000 should be sufficient to purchase enough machines "for a meaningful initiation of such a program."

The Legislature concurred with the Governor's recommendations.

New Jersey currently has four optical scanners, purchased with federal funds, at Ramapo College, the Ocean County Library, the Picatinny Arsenal and the Offices of the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and the Visually Impaired in Newark.

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*New York (State) Law Statutes etc*  
*C*

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The creation of a commission on alcohol and substance abuse prevention and education can provide enhanced efforts to stem the rising tide of drug and alcohol abuse, both separately and in conjunction with one another, with particular emphasis on children and youth.

§ 2. Paragraph two of subdivision (a) of section 19.07 of such law as added by chapter nine hundred seventy-eight of the laws of nineteen hundred seventy-seven, is amended to read as follows:

2. survey and analyze the state's needs and, with the advice of the advisory council on alcoholism, and in accordance with the requirements of subdivision (b) of section 5.07 and article forty-one of this chapter,<sup>1</sup> formulate a comprehensive plan for long range development, through utilization of a network of federal, state, local and private resources, of adequate services and facilities for the prevention and control of alcoholism and alcohol abuse, and from time to time revise such plan, ensuring that any alcoholism programs so funded have as part of their program mission the delivery of services to women;

<sup>1</sup> Mental Hygiene Law § 41.01 et seq.

§ 3. Subdivision (a) of section 19.07 of such law is amended by adding a new paragraph twenty-a to read as follows:

20-a. to provide for the development of systems and programs through which individuals in the state's public and private work force who are afflicted with the illness of alcoholism, are identified and referred for assistance, ensuring that these systems and programs provide emphasis upon the special needs of working women who are affected by alcoholism;

§ 4. Such law is amended by adding a new section 19.08 to read as follows:

**§ 19.08 Reports with respect to alcoholism among women**

The division shall on or before the first day of April in each year file a written report with the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly summarizing the results of any special system or program directed at the special needs of women affected by alcoholism. Such report shall include but not be limited to a statistical analysis of the effectiveness of such programs initiated by the division together with suggested legislation deemed necessary or proper for the implementation of new programs or future success and development of existing programs.

§ 5. This act shall take effect thirty days after the date on which it shall have become a law.

**Purchase of Optical Scanners for Library Systems—  
Use by Blind and Visually Handicapped**

**CHAPTER 660**

An Act to provide for the purchase of certain types of optical scanners, for use by the blind and visually handicapped, by a library system and making an appropriation therefor.

Approved and effective July 11, 1979.

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

Section 1. The commissioner of education in the education department is hereby authorized and directed within such amounts appropriated

therefor, to allocate to each of the twenty-two library systems within this state such amounts as will enable each library system to purchase an optical scanner as hereinafter provided. Each library system, within such amounts as may be allocated therefor and as may otherwise be available for use by such library system, shall contract for, and purchase, a mini-computer which has an optical scanner which converts written words to synthetic speech used as a reading device for the blind and visually handicapped. Upon purchase, each library system shall place such optical scanner in a library located within such system which is most accessible to the blind and visually handicapped population of such library system.

§ 2. The sum of five hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$550,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes fund, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available to the commissioner of education for allocation pursuant to the provisions of section one of this act. No moneys shall be allocated and paid to any library system by the commissioner until the commissioner has approved the purchase contract for such optical scanner by a library system pursuant to section one of this act. If such purchase contracts are approved and duly executed, such money shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner in the manner prescribed by law.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

### Children's Camps—Regulation

#### CHAPTER 661

An Act to amend the public health law, in relation to regulation of advertising and solicitation practices performed within the state by certain camps and limiting the payment of fees upon filing of disclosure statements.

Approved and effective July 11, 1979.

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

Section 1. Section fourteen hundred two of the public health law, as added by chapter eight hundred ninety-eight of the laws of nineteen hundred seventy-seven, is amended to read as follows:

#### § 1402. Delivery of disclosure statement to parent

1. ~~Any literature, solicitation material, enrollment application forms and/or enrollment contract forms mailed or delivered to a person residing within the state for purposes of~~ A copy of the short form disclosure statement shall be mailed or delivered by the owner, director or other person soliciting the enrollment of a child residing within the state for any children's camp located without the state shall be accompanied by a copy of the short form disclosure statement to the parent or guardian of such child. Such disclosure statement may accompany any literature or solicitation material mailed or delivered to such parent or guardian, but in no event, shall such disclosure statement be mailed or delivered to such parent or guardian later than the mailing or delivery of enrollment application forms and/or enrollment contract forms.

2. No advertisement, or other solicitation material, or enrollment application form or enrollment contract or short form, shall contain ~~deletions by strikeouts~~