
By Mr. Rogers, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 244) of George Rogers and Pearl Rosborough for legislation to define certain medical terms in order to further evaluate the school age child with special needs. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-eight.

AN ACT TO DEFINE CERTAIN MEDICAL TERMS IN ORDER TO FURTHER
EVALUATE THE SCHOOL AGE CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 13 of Chapter 766 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by adding the following sections: —

3 *Section 13A.* Biochemical Defects shall be defined as con-
4 sidering both congenital conditions such as Hurler's Syndrome
5 of the various aminoacidurias, as well as acquired biochemical
6 problems such as diabetes mellitus, hypoglycemia, hypoadreno-
7 corticism dysfunction, galactocemia, protein malabsorption,
8 tetany, pre-dabetic, schizophrenia, autism, alcoholism.

9 *Section 13B.* Chronic illnesses shall be defined as including
10 all conditions such as allergies, specific food allergies and
11 elements in environment, recurrent urinary tract infections,
12 rheumatic arthritis, cystic fibrosis, renal disease, etc.

13 *Section 13C.* Nutrition can be evaluated on the basis of skin
14 folds, growth patterns, biochemical analysis, hair analysis,
15 blood, stool, urine, sublingual testing, functional x-ray, and
16 overall health.

17 *Section 13D.* Visual Acuity — This should be assessed on a
18 Snellen chart, or using any of the other instruments for this.
19 Conditions such as myopia, hyperopia, amblyopia interfering
20 amblyopia (Anapolle) and phorias should be noted.

21 *Section 13E.* Ocular Movement — here note any nystagmus
22 or limitation of movement. Vertical, horizontal, diagonal (nose
23 up and nose down), rotational (clockwise and counter clock-

24 wise) Eye tracking should be evaluated. The smoothness and
25 evenness of the eye motions should be observed as the student
26 follows an object. Fixation and convergence should also be
27 noted.

28 *Section 13F. Auditory Acuity* — An audiometric screening
29 should be performed. A complete ear examination should
30 cover:

31 I. Ear drainage which would include culture and sensitivity
32 and also drainage control.

33 II. Hearing test which would determine air-bone gap ade-
34 quacy, discrimination score adequacy, pure tone and speech
35 communication.

36 III. Eustachian tube function to determine Politzeration
37 and an examination of the upper respiratory tract, including
38 the nasopharynx, nasal fossae, sinuses, and allergy.

39 IV. Conditions of the middle ear to determine air space, con-
40 dition of the middle ear mucosa, squamous epithelium in the
41 middle ear, tympanosclerosis, and the mobility of malleus.

42 V. Mastoid x-rays should be taken. In addition a Weber
43 and Rinne test could be helpful in evaluating the student.