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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
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Joint Committee on Administrative,
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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I Rosenberg
Before the House Ways and Means Committee
In Support of
House Bill 1368
Special Education - Individualized Education Program –
Notification of Missed Services (Shifra's Act)

Chair Wilkins and Members of the Committee:

Students with disabilities who receive special education services have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). These programs legally require schools to provide specific supports such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, behavioral services, or classroom aides. These services are sometimes missed, delayed, or inconsistently provided due to staffing shortages and administrative oversight. When services are missed, parents often do not find out right away or sometimes, at all. House Bill 1368 would fix this shortcoming by requiring prompt notifications when these essential services are missed.

It is essential that families receive timely notification for them to properly advocate for their child, request compensatory services, or work with schools to correct the issue. Families should not have to learn about unreceived essential services months late during an IEP review meeting or when their child begins to fall behind academically. IEPs are legally binding documents that must be carried out as intended by special education law.

House Bill 1368 creates a clear notification requirement when special education services are not delivered as required in a student's IEP. Under the bill, parents must be notified if services were never initiated on time or if a certain number of sessions are missed within a defined period. Notification must come within 3 school days in the form of a notice that includes what services have been missed and why, the steps the school will take to correct the problem, and information on how parents can request an IEP meeting to discuss solutions.

This is a simple but important step towards transparency and accountability in the delivery of special education services that are required under law. I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 1368.

March 11th, 2026