



An Act Relative to Equal Educational Opportunities for Students with Disabilities

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Sannicandro

Bill Summary

This bill addresses the impact of a Rehnquist decision by the US Supreme Court (*Buckhannon, 2001*) which has effectively created a two-tier system, barring many low and middle-income families from accessing special education rights and services. This bill would reinstate parents' rights to recover attorneys' fees as previously available prior to 2001. This is critical to encourage prompt resolution and settlement of disputes, reduce litigation costs for families and school districts, reduce the lengthy delays which harm children deprived of essential services for months and sometimes years, and help ensure that children of all income levels receive equal educational opportunities.