

Amendment to HB 1215

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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3 AN ACT relative to supporting the preferred method of communication of an individual with a
4 communication disability.

5 Amend RSA 171-A:4-a as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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7 171-A:4-a Right to Preferred Method of Communication.

8 I. An individual with a communication disability who is receiving services under this
9 chapter shall have the right to select and utilize their preferred method of communication that
10 enables such individual to independently express their own thoughts and wishes. Methods of
11 communication that may enable an individual to independently express themselves include, but are
12 not limited to, any of the following methods:

13 (a) Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) techniques and devices.

14 (b) Independent use of letterboards and independent typing-based communication.

15 (c) Sign language and non-verbal gestural systems.

16 (d) Speech-generating devices or any other assistive technology.

17 II. Every school, day, residential and other program or service provider involved in the
18 implementation of the individual's individualized education program or the individual's service
19 agreement shall make all reasonable efforts to accommodate an individual's preferred method of
20 communication, including securing necessary training to communicate with the individual using the
21 individual's preferred method of communication.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill supports the right of individuals with communication disabilities to use their preferred method of communication within the state service delivery system, including in residential settings and schools and with other service providers.