
DIGEST

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HB 1023 Original

2016 Regular Session

Havard

Abstract: Provides relative to assessments administered to elementary and secondary school students.

Present law provides for the La. Competency-Based Education Program, including the implementation of statewide standards for required subjects and the La. Educational Assessment Program (LEAP). Requires standards-based assessments for required subjects (English language arts, math, science, and social studies) to be administered in at least grades three-11.

Proposed law eliminates the requirement that all four of these subjects be tested in at least grades three-11 and limits assessments to those in English language arts and math in grades three through eight and those in science in grades four and eight. Prohibits assessments in social studies.

Present law requires that fourth and eighth grade students demonstrate a certain level of proficiency in English language arts, math, science, and social studies to advance to grades five and nine. Proposed law eliminates social studies as a "high stakes" testing subject.

Present BESE policy provides for the administration of the ACT and other ACT assessments. Present law requires a high school student pursuing a career diploma to take the ACT and allows him to choose to take the WorkKeys test. Proposed law provides that the administration of the ACT as required by such policy and present law shall satisfy federal requirements relative to testing in math, English language arts, and science in high school.

Proposed law also provides as follows:

- (1) Prohibits the requirement of end-of-course testing or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) testing.
- (2) Prohibits DOE from expending funds for assessments not authorized by present law or proposed law. Requires DOE, in collaboration with the division of administration, to cancel, in whole or in part, any state contract for testing prohibited by present law or proposed law.
- (3) Notwithstanding present law and proposed law, authorizes any local public school governing authority to enter into contracts to provide for assessments that it determines to be in the best interest of the students enrolled in school under its jurisdiction.
- (4) Prohibits the state Dept. of Education and the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary

Education from requiring a local public school governing authority to conduct testing that is prohibited by present law or proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(c) and (4)(a); Adds R.S. 17:24.4(F)(5))