

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1023

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD

STUDENT/ASSESSMENT: Provides relative to assessments administered to elementary and secondary school students

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(c) and (4)(a) and to enact R.S. 17:24.4(F)(5),
3 relative to student assessments; to prohibit certain assessments from being required;
4 to prohibit certain assessments from being administered; to prohibit the expenditure
5 of funds on assessments not authorized by law; to require the cancellation of state
6 contracts for prohibited assessments; to authorize local public school governing
7 authorities to enter into contracts for assessments; to prohibit the state Department
8 of Education or the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education from
9 requiring local public school governing authorities to administer prohibited
10 assessments; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(c) and (4)(a) are hereby amended and reenacted and
13 R.S. 17:24.4(F)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 §24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for
15 required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish or city
16 school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

17 * * *

18 F.(1)

19 * * *

1 (c) Standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and
 2 ~~science, and social studies~~ based on state content standards and rigorous student
 3 achievement standards set with reference to test scores of students of the same grade
 4 level nationally shall be implemented by the State Board of Elementary and
 5 Secondary Education. ~~Such tests shall be administered, at a minimum, in grades~~
 6 ~~three through eleven.~~ Assessments shall be limited to assessments in English
 7 language arts and math in grades three through eight and assessments in science in
 8 grades four and eight. No assessments in social studies shall be administered
 9 pursuant to this Section or for purposes of the school and district accountability
 10 system.

11 * * *

12 (4)(a) In addition to the other requirements of this Subsection, the state
 13 Department of Education shall establish, subject to the approval of the State Board
 14 of Elementary and Secondary Education, the level of achievement on certain of the
 15 tests or on certain portions of the tests given as required in this Subsection in fourth
 16 and eighth grades as definitive of the level of the student's proficiency in
 17 mathematics, English language arts, and ~~science, and social studies~~. Fourth and
 18 eighth grade students shall be required to demonstrate proficiency on such tests in
 19 order to advance to grades five and nine, pursuant to rules adopted by the State
 20 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance with the
 21 Administrative Procedure Act. Such proficiency levels shall be set with reference to
 22 test scores of students of the same grade level nationally. The department shall
 23 establish, subject to the approval of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
 24 Education, the nature and application of various intervention options in the case of
 25 a failure to demonstrate proficiency, which may include remediation, retention in
 26 grade, an alternative placement in succeeding grades, or any other option which will
 27 support a student's achieving the required proficiency level.

28 * * *

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))