



February 21, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools to provide each high school senior, instead of students in general, the opportunity to take nationally recognized assessments each year, instead of only for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. Establishes certain criteria that the assessments must meet in order to be used pursuant to this section. Deletes language that stipulates that the section is subject to available federal funds.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Expenditures - \$976,800/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years\***

Assumptions:

- During the 2021-22 school year, the Department of Education (DOE) contracted with three vendors of career readiness assessments, allowing high school seniors to take the assessments at no cost. That contract began in February 2022 and a total of 854 students opted into the department-funded offer to take career readiness assessments at no cost to the student or LEA between February and May 2022.
- The 2022-23 contract to offer career readiness assessments to high school students began Feb. 1, 2023. DOE has no data on the number of students who took career readiness assessments outside of the contract period during this school year.
- The projected average daily membership for grade 12 in FY23-24 is 66,451.
- The average cost per student for career readiness assessments offered to students that meet the criteria outlined in the proposed legislation is \$30.
- Mississippi career readiness assessment data from September 2021 to September 2022 indicates 51,046 assessments were completed by approximately 17,015 students, or about 49 percent of the senior class.
- Based on assessment data for high school seniors in Mississippi, it estimated that 32,561 (66,451 x 49%) high school seniors will take career readiness assessments each year.
- The provision of career readiness assessments will increase local expenditures \$976,830 (32,561 x \$30) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- According to DOE, federal funding is not available for these purposes.

\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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