
DIGEST

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HB 542 Reengrossed

2015 Regular Session

Schroder

Abstract: Requires the state Dept. of Education to contract with a vendor (other than the PARCC consortium) for English language arts and math assessments for the 2015-2016 school year.

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 implemented by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and administered in at least grades 3-11. Provides that such assessments be based on state content standards and rigorous student achievement standards comparable to national student achievement levels. Further requires that the rigor of such assessments shall at least compare to that of national achievement tests. Requires BESE to establish adequate test scores for determining successful student performance on the tests. Specifies that beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the standards-based assessments in English language arts and math shall be based on nationally recognized content standards.

Proposed law prohibits the state Dept. of Education from contracting with the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) consortium for assessments administered pursuant to present law during the 2015-2016 school year. Requires the department to contract with another vendor, in accordance with the La. Procurement Code, for assessments for grades three through 10 in English language arts and math for the 2015-2016 school year. Limits assessment questions, to not more than 49.9% that can be based on the blueprint developed through the PARCC process or processes conducted by a federally funded consortium of states or by a consortium of states funded by organizations primarily dedicated to political advocacy. Otherwise retains present law.

Provides that proposed law is effective if House Bill No. 373 and Senate Bill No. 43 of the 2015 R.S. become effective.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(a); Adds R.S. 17:24.4(F)(2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Prohibit the state Dept. of Education from contracting with the PARCC consortium for assessments for the 2015-2016 school year and require the department to contract with

another vendor, in accordance with the La. Procurement Code, for assessments for grades 3-10 in English language arts and math for the 2015-2016 school year.

2. Limit the number of assessment questions that can be based on the blueprint developed through the PARCC process or processes conducted by a federally funded consortium of states.
3. Delete proposed law prohibition on implementation of PARCC and Smarter Balanced and other similar assessments. Retain present law requiring that assessments be based on nationally recognized content standards and requiring that student achievement standards be based on national test scores.
4. Delete proposed law requirement for a parent's or guardian's approval of administration of an alternate assessment to a student with disabilities.
5. Make proposed law effective if and when House Bill No. 373 and Senate Bill No. 43 of the 2015 R.S. become effective.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Limit the number of assessment questions that can be based on the blueprint developed through processes conducted by a consortium of states funded by organizations primarily dedicated to political advocacy.