

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 542****2015 Regular Session****Schroder**

STUDENT/ASSESSMENT: Provides relative to contracts by the state Dept. of Education for English language arts and math assessments for the 2015-2016 school year

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Specify that proposed law applies only to assessments for the 2015-2016 school year and becomes null and void on July 1, 2016.
2. Require the state Dept. of Education to enter into a one-year contract for English language arts and mathematics assessments in grades three through eight rather than grades three through 10.
3. Require the commissioner of administration to ensure that the assessment contractor complies with proposed law.
4. Require the commissioner of administration to ensure that the assessment contractor submits a copy of any subcontracts entered into within 10 days of finalizing the contract.
5. Require the state chief procurement officer to make a final determination regarding the department's request for proposals for a vendor by July 15, 2015, provided all requirements of the La. Procurement Code are met.
6. Require the state chief procurement officer to make a final determination regarding the department's contract by Oct. 15, 2015, provided all requirements of the La. Procurement Code are met.
7. Require that the questions included in the end-of-course assessments administered in grades nine through 11 be developed using the same methodology used for such assessments for the 2014-2015 school year.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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 three through 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 retains present law and additionally provides with respect to assessments to be administered during the 2015-2016 school year as follows:

- (1) Requires the state Dept. of Education to enter into a one-year contract, in accordance with the La. Procurement Code, for assessments to be used in grades three through eight in English language arts and mathematics.

- (2) Provides that not more than 49.9% of the questions included in the selected assessments shall be based upon a blueprint or intellectual property developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers consortium, or any other federally funded consortium of states.
- (3) Provides that no question included in the selected assessments shall be based upon a blueprint or intellectual property developed by a consortium of states predominantly funded by organizations primarily dedicated to political advocacy.
- (4) Requires the commissioner of administration to ensure that any contractor is in full compliance with proposed law.
- (5) Requires the commissioner of administration to ensure that a copy of any subcontract entered into by the selected contractor shall be submitted to the division of administration within 10 calendar days of finalization of the contract.
- (6) Requires the state chief procurement officer, in accordance with applicable state law, to make a final determination regarding the department's request for proposals to solicit a vendor for the 2015-2016 assessments, by July 15, 2015, provided all requirements of the state procurement code have been met.
- (7) Requires the state chief procurement officer, in accordance with applicable state law, to make a final determination regarding the department's contract for the 2015-2016 assessments, not later than Oct. 15, 2015, provided all requirements of the state procurement code have been met.

Provides that proposed law shall become null and void on July 1, 2016.

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))