
DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 80 Engrossed

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Charles Owen

Abstract: For the 2020-2021 school year, limits the use of student assessment results for the purposes of teacher evaluation and student promotion and provides for waiving school and district letter grades under certain circumstances.

Present law provides for standards-based assessments of public school students for required subjects. Provides for the use of assessment results as a measure of student growth for the following purposes:

- (1) The evaluation of teachers.
- (2) The promotion of students to certain grade levels.
- (3) The school and district accountability system, through which the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) calculates school and district performance scores and assigns letter grades based on such scores.

Proposed law, for the 2020-2021 school year, provides the following relative to assessments:

- (1) Prohibits requiring results for present law purposes of student promotion or teacher evaluation. Authorizes public school governing authorities to adopt policies relative to the use of results in evaluations.
- (2) Requires BESE to examine results and school-level test data and make such allowances in calculating performance scores as it deems necessary and appropriate and provides the following:
 - (a) Requires the state superintendent to report to the education committees relative to results by May 30, 2021.
 - (b) Requires BESE to prepare a petition to U.S. Dept. of Education for a waiver relative to issuing letter grades and submit it if the state superintendent deems that such issuance would be detrimental to the state.
 - (c) Requires BESE and the superintendent to present a report to the education committees regarding this decision by June 15, 2021.

Proposed law also repeals obsolete present law relative to assessments.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(g); Repeals R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(h) and (2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Relative to school and district letter grades:
 - (a) Remove proposed law subjecting the assignment of school and district letter grades to legislative approval.
 - (b) Require BESE to prepare a petition to U.S. Dept. of Education for a waiver relative to issuing letter grades and submit it if the state superintendent deems that such issuance would be detrimental and require BESE and the superintendent to present a report to the education committees regarding this decision by June 15, 2021.
2. Extend deadline for superintendent's 2021 report to education committees relative to assessment results from the end of April to the end of May.