

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 558

BY REPRESENTATIVES HENRY AND RICHARD

STUDENT/ASSESSMENT: Prohibits administration of Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers assessments and provides for continuation of La. Educational Assessment Program tests and the standards on which such tests are based

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4), (E), and (F)(1)(a), (c), (d), and (e) and (3)(a) and
3 (b)(ii) and to repeal Part VI of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised
4 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:391.2 through 391.13, relative to education
5 standards and related assessments; to prohibit the administration of certain standards-
6 based assessments; to remove the requirement that standards-based assessments for
7 certain subjects be based on nationally recognized content standards; to provide for
8 the continued administration of Louisiana Educational Assessment Program tests and
9 the standards on which such tests are based; to provide for periodic review and
10 revision of the tests by the state Department of Education; to repeal obsolete
11 provisions relative to public school accountability and assessment; and to provide for
12 related matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4), (E), and (F)(1)(a), (c), (d), and (e) and (3)(a) and
15 (b)(ii) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

1 §24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for
2 required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish or city
3 school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

4 A. As used in this Section, the following words, terms, and phrases shall
5 have the meaning ascribed to them in this Subsection, except when the context
6 clearly indicates a different meaning:

7 * * *

8 (4) The "statewide content standards for required subjects" are statements
9 that define what a student should know or be able to accomplish at the end of a
10 specific time period or grade level or at the completion of a course. ~~Content~~
11 ~~standards shall represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully~~
12 ~~transition to postsecondary education and the workplace, as determined by content~~
13 ~~experts, elementary and secondary educators and school leaders, postsecondary~~
14 ~~education leaders, and business and industry leaders.~~

15 * * *

16 E. The state Department of Education ~~shall~~, with the approval of the State
17 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, ~~as part of the Louisiana~~
18 ~~Competency-Based Education Program,~~ shall develop ~~and establish~~ statewide
19 content standards for required subjects to be taught in the public elementary and
20 secondary schools of this state. The statewide content standards for required subjects
21 shall be implemented by the state Department of Education as approved by the State
22 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, with recommendations prior to
23 approval and advice from the educational personnel in the public schools and
24 colleges and universities of this state.

25 F.(1)(a) The state Department of Education shall ~~begin implementation of~~
26 ~~a~~ implement the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program with the approval of the
27 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

28 * * *

1 (c) Standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics,
 2 science, and social studies shall be based on state content standards that represent the
 3 knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary
 4 education and the workplace and rigorous student achievement standards set with
 5 reference to test scores of students of the same grade level nationally. The
 6 assessments shall be implemented by the ~~State Board of Elementary and Secondary~~
 7 ~~Education. Such tests state Department of Education and~~ shall be administered, ~~at~~
 8 ~~a minimum~~, in grades three through eleven.

9 (d) ~~Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, standards-based assessments~~
 10 ~~implemented by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in English~~
 11 ~~language arts and mathematics shall be based on nationally recognized content~~
 12 ~~standards that represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully~~
 13 ~~transition to postsecondary education and the workplace. Rigorous student~~
 14 ~~achievement standards shall be set with reference to test scores of the same grade~~
 15 ~~levels nationally. The state Department of Education or the State Board of~~
 16 Elementary and Secondary Education shall not implement or administer any
 17 standards-based assessment proposed or developed by the Partnership for
 18 Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, the Smarter Balanced Assessment
 19 Consortium, or any other equivalent national group or consortium.

20 (e) The rigor of each standards-based assessment, at a minimum, shall be
 21 comparable to national achievement tests, including but not limited to the National
 22 Assessment of Education Progress. The department shall periodically review the
 23 rigor of such assessments for compliance with this Subparagraph and Subparagraph
 24 (c) of this Paragraph and shall revise the assessments as may be necessary to ensure
 25 such compliance.

* * *

27 (3)(a) In lieu of the standards-based assessments prescribed in
 28 ~~Subparagraphs~~ Subparagraph (1)(c) ~~and (d)~~ of this Subsection, an alternate
 29 assessment shall be provided for and administered only to those students with

1 disabilities who meet specific eligibility criteria developed by the state Department
 2 of Education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
 3 Education. A determination of whether any student meets the eligibility criteria
 4 established by the state Department of Education shall be made by the student's
 5 Individual Education Plan committee and shall be so noted on that student's
 6 Individual Education Plan. The alternate assessment developed pursuant to this
 7 Paragraph shall be administered on a schedule determined by the state Department
 8 of Education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
 9 Education. The alternate assessment shall be part of the Louisiana Education
 10 Assessment Program otherwise provided for in this Subsection and the alternate
 11 assessment shall be used for information, accountability, compliance, and planning
 12 purposes as provided by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

(b)

* * *

15 (ii) Students with persistent academic disabilities shall be allowed to take
 16 academic assessments that are sensitive to measuring progress in their learning and
 17 that recognize their individual needs. Academic assessments are to be geared
 18 specifically toward accommodating students to enable them to perform on standards-
 19 based assessments prescribed in ~~Subparagraphs~~ Subparagraph (1)(c) ~~and (d)~~ of this
 20 Subsection. Such accommodations shall include at a minimum verbalized test
 21 questions and shall provide for writing assistance of a scribe and any other
 22 accommodations deemed appropriate by the student's Individual Education Plan
 23 committee. However, any such accommodations shall not breach test security or
 24 invalidate the meaning of the test score or the purpose of the test.

* * *

26 Section 2. Part VI of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
 27 comprised of R.S. 17:391.2 through 391.13, are hereby repealed in its entirety.

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)]

Henry

HB No. 558

Abstract: Prohibits administration of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments and any other similar assessments and provides for continued administration of La. Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) tests based on rigorous standards comparable to student achievement levels nationally.

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 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. 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. Requires BESE to establish the adequate test scores for determining successful student performance on the tests. Proposed law retains present law provisions with regard to implementation of LEAP tests except requires the tests to be administered in grades 3 through 11.

Proposed law deletes present law requirement that the standards-based assessments in English language arts and math be based on nationally recognized content standards and prohibits implementation of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and Smarter Balanced assessments and any other similar assessments.

Proposed law provides for implementation of the standards-based assessments by the department instead of BESE and requires the department to periodically review and revise the rigor of such assessments as necessary.

Present law (R.S. 17:391.2-391.13), relative to public school accountability and assessment, includes requirements for an educational accountability program, pupil proficiency levels, course content evaluations, standardized test administration, and public school accreditation. Further provides for school readiness assessments for students entering kindergarten and a talent search program for junior high students. Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4), (E), and (F)(1)(a), (c), (d), and (e) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii); Repeals R.S. 17:391.2-391.13)