



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 558** HLS 14RS 671  
Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
Opp. Chamb. Action:  
  
Proposed Amd.:  
Sub. Bill For.:

|                                     |         |                               |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Date:</b> April 2, 2014          | 8:00 AM | <b>Author:</b> HENRY          |
| <b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Education        |         |                               |
| <b>Subject:</b> Student Assessments |         | <b>Analyst:</b> Jodi Mauroner |

STUDENT/ASSESSMENT OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 2

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

The proposed legislation prohibits the implementation or administration of any standards based assessments proposed or developed by Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, or any other equivalent national group or consortium unless specifically authorized by law and further provides for continued use of the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP).

| EXPENDITURES   | 2014-15   | 2015-16   | 2016-17   | 2017-18   | 2018-19   | 5 -YEAR TOTAL |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| State Gen. Fd. | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW |               |
| Agy. Self-Gen. | \$0       | \$0       | \$0       | \$0       | \$0       | \$0           |
| Ded./Other     | \$0       | \$0       | \$0       | \$0       | \$0       | \$0           |
| Federal Funds  | \$0       | \$0       | \$0       | \$0       | \$0       | \$0           |
| Local Funds    | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW |               |
| Annual Total   |           |           |           |           |           |               |

| REVENUES       | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 5 -YEAR TOTAL |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
| State Gen. Fd. | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0           |
| Agy. Self-Gen. | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0           |
| Ded./Other     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0           |
| Federal Funds  | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0           |
| Local Funds    | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0           |
| Annual Total   | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0           |

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

There may be a state general fund cost as low as \$3M in FY 14-15 to continue using the 2013-2014 assessment, and as high as \$7.5M annually for FY 15-16 through FY 18-19 to develop alternative assessments and for a new contract to administer the assessment program. However, it may not represent an increase in the budget to the extent those funds are already available in the budget. The Legislative Fiscal Office has been unable to determine whether the projected costs represent an actual increase or whether some level of funding is already included in the operating budget. The department has been engaged in LEAP testing since the Spring of 1999 and the Executive Budget does not reflect a reduction in operating expenses related to the transition to the PARCC contract.

In 2010, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which establish a single set of student standards in English and math for states that choose to participate. PARCC and SBAC assessments are computer based assessments fully aligned to the CCSS. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year the Department of Education (DOE) will utilize PARCC assessments in lieu of the iLEAP tests for English language arts (ELA) and math. DOE will continue to use iLEAP and LEAP assessments for science and social studies. In anticipation of fully implementing the PARCC assessment, the DOE has been scaling back on normal ELA/math item development activities. This includes a transition in contract services from the current service based contract to a fixed cost contract with PARCC. The service based contract provides for a portion of some services (i.e. scoring) and shared services with the DOE for others (i.e. item development and forms construction). The PARCC contract will be all inclusive for grade 3-8 assessments.

An explanation of the components of the overall cost projection are detailed on Page 2.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

House

☐ 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}

☐ 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}

☐ 6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 State Rev. Reduc. {H & S}

☐ 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}

☐ 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Evan Brasseaux

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Staff Director



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**CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:** Page 2 of 2

Continuing the 13-14 Assessment  
(FY 14-15 \$3.0M, FY 15-16 and thereafter \$4.4M annually)  
The ELA/math assessments currently being utilized for the 2013-2014 school year are not fully aligned with CCSS and were intended to be used for one year only. Full alignment of the assessment with the new standards will require additional item development and test forms. Based on historical expenditures a total of \$3 M is projected including the development of new items (\$1.3M), printing and shipping field test materials (\$365K), scoring and validating responses (\$533K), review and modifications (\$288K), and additional forms (\$500k). An additional \$1.4M item development cost for the high school End of Course (EOC) assessments is projected for FY 15-16 through FY 18-19. The EOC are still in the normal item development cycle and the tests are substantially aligned with CCSS. It is not clear whether this represents actual increased costs for the DOE as the department is already engaged in these activities.

Contract Costs  
(FY 15-16 and thereafter \$3.1M annually)  
The DOE projects a \$3.1M increase for a new contract to administer ELA/math for FY 15-16 through FY 18-19. For FY 14-15 the ELA/math assessment can be administered along with science and social studies under the existing contract. However, that contract expires at the end of FY 15. There are two contracts for FY 15-16 and thereafter. PARCC will provide the English/math assessment. Pacific Metrics will provide the science/social studies and high school end of course testing. The Pacific Metrics contract cannot be amended to administer ELA/math assessment as those activities are outside the scope of the original RFP. The projected increase is based on current LEAP, iLEAP and EOC contracts, however contract amounts will depend upon the scope of work and the proposals received. The actual amount of the increase is indeterminable at this time.

Local School District Impacts  
Local school districts could benefit if online assessments are not required for the 2014-2015 school year and thereafter. The school districts’ 2014 Technology Footprint Snapshot indicate that only about 53% school districts are identified as meeting the device standard established by the DOE (7:1); and 36% report an insufficient number of devices. Approximately 8% -11% report insufficient bandwidth and/or network capacity. Furthermore, PARCC’s suggested device standards are 2:1 for the largest tested grade (up to three tested grades) and 1:1 in the largest tested grade for schools that have six tested grades. DOE has not provided an explanation as to why the standards differ. However, the department has anticipated some students will be required to take a paper and pencil test and calculated those costs in the projected FY 14-15 budget, but assumes all assessments will be online for FY 15-16 and thereafter.