SLS 25RS-323 **ORIGINAL** 

2025 Regular Session

1

SENATE BILL NO. 105

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY. Requires that schools utilize a nationally normed assessment instead of the LEAP test for purposes of school and district accountability. (gov sig)

AN ACT

2	To amend and reenact R.S. 17:10.1(A)(2) and (B) and to enact R.S. 17:10.1(J), relative to
3	school and district accountability; to provide for the use of a nationally normed
4	assessment; to provide for a task force; to provide for membership and appointments
5	to the task force; to provide for duties of the members of the task force; to provide
6	with respect to compensation, reports, and termination of the task force; to provide
7	with respect to social studies examinations in certain grade levels; to provide for an
8	effective date; and to provide for related matters.
9	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
10	Section 1. R.S. 17:10.1(A)(2) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
11	17:10.1(J) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
12	§10.1. School and district accountability system; purpose; responsibilities of state
13	board
14	A. It is the purpose of this Section to:
15	* * *
16	(2)(a) Provide assurance to the citizens that the quality of education in each
17	public school is monitored and maintained at levels essential for each student to

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1	receive a minimum foundation of education.
2	(b) Beginning in the 2026-2027 academic school year, in lieu of the
3	assessments incorporated into the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program,
4	pursuant to R.S. 17:24.4, the school and district accountability system shall
5	utilize a nationally normed assessment.
6	* * *
7	B.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, hereafter
8	referred to as the "state board", shall provide for a statewide system of accountability
9	for schools and school districts based on student achievement and minimum
10	standards for the approval of schools pursuant to R.S. 17:10. Beginning with the
11	2011-2012 school year, such <u>The</u> system shall be based, in part, on growth in student
12	achievement using a value-added assessment model as determined by the state board.
13	The program system shall include, at a minimum, clear and appropriate standards
14	for schools and school districts, indicators for the assessment of schools and school
15	districts, student achievement baselines, student growth targets, and appropriate
16	minimum levels of student achievement for each public school and school district,
17	rewards and corrective actions, specific intervals for assessment and reassessment
18	of schools and school districts, a review process for evaluating growth targets, and
19	technical assistance.
20	(2)(a) There is hereby created the Nationally Normed Assessment Task
21	Force, to review and make a determination of the nationally normed assessment
22	that best suits the intent and purpose of this Section.
23	(b) The task force shall consist of twenty-two members, as follows:
24	(i) One member who is appointed by the governor and who shall serve
25	as the chairman.
26	(ii) One member of the Senate who is appointed by the president of the
27	Senate.

**Senate Committee on Education.** 

(iii) One member of the Senate who is appointed by the chairman of the

1	(iv) One member of the House of Representatives who is appointed by
2	the speaker of the House.
3	(v) One member of the House of Representatives who is appointed by the
4	chairman of the House Committee on Education.
5	(vi) One member who is appointed by the executive director of the
6	Louisiana School Boards Association.
7	(vii) One member who is appointed by the executive director of the
8	Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.
9	(viii) Three members who are appointed by the Louisiana Association of
10	Educators, one of whom teaches in grades kindergarten through five, one of
11	whom teaches in grades six through eight, and one of whom teaches in grades
12	nine through twelve.
13	(ix) Three members who are appointed by the Louisiana Federation of
14	Teachers, one of whom teaches in grades kindergarten through five, one of
15	whom teaches in grades six through eight, and one of whom teaches in grades
16	nine through twelve.
17	(x) Three members who are appointed by the Associated Professional
18	Educators of Louisiana, and one of whom teaches in grades kindergarten
19	through five, one of whom teaches in grades six through eight, and one of whom
20	teaches in grades nine through twelve.
21	(xi) Three members who are appointed by the executive director of the
22	Louisiana Association of Principals, one of whom is a principal of a school with
23	grades kindergarten through fifth grade, one of whom is a principal of a school
24	with grades six through eight, and one of whom is a principal in a high school.
25	(xii) Three members who are appointed by the executive director of the
26	Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, one of whom is a
27	superintendent from a school district with less than three thousand students,
28	one of whom is a superintendent from a district with between three thousand
29	and ten thousand students, and one superintendent from a district with more

1	than ten thousand students.
2	(c) The members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
3	except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually
4	entitled as members of their constituent organizations.
5	(d) The chairman shall call the first meeting of the task force not later
6	than July 1, 2025, and the governor's office shall provide support to the task
7	force from its existing staff.
8	(e) The task force shall meet at least monthly to receive information and
9	review the nationally normed assessments approved by the state board in
10	accordance with R.S. 17:4037.10 and select one assessment to be used in the
11	school and district accountability system.
12	(f) Not later than January 15, 2026, the task force shall submit a report
13	to the governor, House and Senate committees on education, the state
14	superintendent of education, and the state board, identifying the nationally
15	normed assessment to be utilized for the school and district accountability
16	system.
17	(g) The task force shall terminate on the date that the report, provided
18	for in Subsubparagraph (f) of this Subparagraph is submitted.
19	(3) The state board shall notify each public school governing authority
20	of the assessment to be used for the 2026-2027 school year in accordance with
21	the report of the task force, within thirty days of receipt of the task force report.
22	(4) The state Department of Education shall submit a revised state plan
23	to the United States Department of Educations, pursuant to the Every Student
24	Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C. §6312 et seq., that is aligned with the requirements of
25	this Section and implementing the nationally normed assessment selected by the
26	task force, not later than sixty days after receipt of the task force report.
27	* * *
28	J. For the 2025-2026 academic school year, students in grades four, six,
29	and seven shall not be administered any state assessment in social studies.

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Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST
SB Original 2025 Regular Session

Abraham

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 17:10.1) requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to provide for a statewide system of accountability for schools and school districts based on student achievement and minimum standards for the approval of schools, including the creation of an honor roll recognizing all high-performing schools and high schools with graduation rates that exceed the state average.

<u>Present law</u> (R. S. 17:24.4) provides for the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) high-stakes testing of students in certain grade levels. Provides that students must obtain a certain level of mastery on the LEAP test to advance to the next grade level.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and provides that, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year the school and district accountability system is to utilize a nationally normed assessment, instead of the LEAP test.

<u>Proposed law</u> creates the Nationally Normed Assessment Task Force, to review and make a determination of the nationally normed assessment that best suits the intent and purpose of <u>proposed law</u>. The task force is to consist of 22 members, as follows:

- (1) One member appointed by the governor, who is to serve as the chairman.
- (2) One member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.
- One member of the Senate appointed by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Education.
- (4) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House.
- One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the chairman of the House Committee on Education.
- (6) One member appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association.
- (7) One member appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.
- (8) Three members who are classroom teachers and who are appointed by the Louisiana Association of Educators, one of whom teaches in grades kindergarten through five, one of whom teaches in grades six through eight, and one of whom teaches in grades

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Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

nine through 12.

- (9) Three members appointed by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, one of whom teaches in grades kindergarten through five, one of whom teaches in grades six through eight, and one of whom teaches in grades nine through 12.
- (10) Three members appointed by the Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana, and one of whom teaches in grades kindergarten through five, one of whom teaches in grades six through eight, and one of whom teaches in grades nine through 12.
- (11) Three members appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana Association of Principals, one of whom is a principal of a school with grades kindergarten through fifth grade, one of whom is a principal of a school with grades six through eight, and one of whom is a principal in a high school.
- (12) Three members who are appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, one of whom is a superintendent from a school district with less than 3,000 students, one of whom is a superintendent from a district with between 3,000 and 10,000 students, and one superintendent from a district with more than 10,000 students.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that the members of the task force are to serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations. Provides that the chairman is to call the first meeting of the task force by July 1, 2025, and the governor's office is to provide support to the task force from its existing staff. The task force is to meet at least monthly to receive information and review the nationally normed assessments approved by BESE and select one assessment to be used in the school and district accountability system.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that by Jan. 15, 2026, the task force is to submit a report to the governor, House and Senate committees on education, the state superintendent of education, and BESE, identifying the nationally normed assessment to be utilized for the school and district accountability system. Provides that the task force is to terminate on the date that the report is submitted. Provides that BESE is to notify each public school governing authority of the assessment to be used for the 2026-2027 school year in accordance with the report of the task force, within 30 days of receipt of the task force report.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that the department is to submit a revised state plan to the U.S. Dept. of Education, pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act, that is aligned with the requirements of <u>proposed law</u> not later than 60 days after receipt of the task force report.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that for the 2025-2026 school year, students in grades four, six, and seven are not be administered a state assessment in social studies.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:10.1(A)(2) and (B); adds R.S. 17:10.1(J))