### Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 554

## BY REPRESENTATIVES HENRY AND RICHARD

STUDENT/STANDARDS: Provides for implementation of state content standards and assessments subject to legislative approval and permits local school systems to develop and implement content standards in lieu of state standards

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4), (E), and (F)(1)(a), (c), and (e) and (3)(a) and
3	(b)(ii) and to repeal R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(d), Part VI of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the
4	Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:391.2, and 391.3 through
5	391.13, relative to education standards and related assessments; to provide for the
6	implementation of state content standards and related assessments subject to the
7	approval of the legislature; to permit local public school systems to develop and
8	implement content standards for required subjects instead of implementing state
9	content standards; to repeal provisions relative to implementation of certain
10	standards-based assessments by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
11	Education; to repeal obsolete provisions relative to public school accountability and
12	assessment; and to provide for 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), and (e) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii)
15	are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
16	§24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for
17	required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish or city
18	school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers
19	A. As used in this Section, the following words, terms, and phrases shall
20	have the meaning ascribed to them in this Subsection, except when the context
21	clearly indicates a different meaning:
22	* * *

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	(4) "The statewide content standards for required subjects" are statements
2	that define what a student should know or be able to accomplish at the end of a
3	specific time period or grade level or at the completion of a course. Content
4	standards shall represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully
5	transition to postsecondary education and the workplace, as determined by content
6	experts, elementary and secondary educators and school leaders, postsecondary
7	education leaders, and business and industry leaders.
8	* * *
9	E. $(1)(a)$ The state Department of Education shall, with the approval of the
10	State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, as part of the Louisiana
11	Competency-Based Education Program, shall develop and establish statewide
12	content standards for required subjects to be taught in the public elementary and
13	secondary schools of this state. Prior to implementation, such standards shall be
14	promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. The statewide
15	content standards for required subjects shall be implemented by the state Department
16	of Education as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
17	Education, with recommendations prior to approval and advice from the educational
18	personnel in the public schools and colleges and universities of this state. Such
19	implementation shall also be subject to the approval of the standards by the
20	legislature by concurrent resolution adopted by a favorable vote of at least a majority
21	of the elected members of each house. The legislature may recommend changes to
22	the standards as it deems necessary or appropriate. Except as provided in
23	Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, the department shall not implement standards
24	that have not been approved by the legislature pursuant to this Paragraph.
25	(b) Until the initial implementation of standards as approved by the
26	legislature, the department shall implement the state standards used immediately
27	prior to the adoption of the Common Core State Standards by the State Board of
28	Elementary and Secondary Education and shall make improvements to the standards
29	as may be necessary.

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1	(2) A local public school system is not required to implement the state
2	standards developed pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection if it develops and
3	implements, in all schools in the system, content standards for required subjects that
4	meet or exceed the rigor of the state standards as determined by the superintendent
5	of the system.
6	F.(1)(a) The state Department of Education shall begin implementation of
7	a implement the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program with the approval of the
8	State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
9	* * *
10	(c)(i) Standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics,
11	science, and social studies shall be based on state content standards that represent the
12	knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary
13	education and the workplace and rigorous student achievement standards set with
14	reference to test scores of students of the same grade level nationally. The state
15	assessments shall be implemented by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
16	Education. Such tests state Department of Education subject to the approval of the
17	legislature by concurrent resolution adopted by a favorable vote of at least a majority
18	of the elected members of each house and shall be administered, at a minimum, in
19	grades three through eleven. Except as provided in Item (ii) of this Subparagraph,
20	the department shall not implement state assessments that have not been approved
21	by the legislature pursuant to this Subparagraph.
22	(ii) Until the initial implementation of state assessments as approved by the
23	legislature, the department shall continue to implement the Louisiana Educational
24	Assessment Program tests as administered in the 2012-2013 school year and shall
25	revise the tests as necessary to ensure compliance with Item (i) of this Subparagraph
26	and Subparagraph (e) of this Paragraph.
27	* * *
28	(e) The rigor of each standards-based assessment, at a minimum, shall be
29	comparable to national achievement tests, including but not limited to the National

Assessment of Education Progress. <u>The department shall periodically review the</u>
<u>rigor of such assessments for compliance with this Subparagraph and Subparagraph</u>
(c) of this Paragraph and shall revise the assessments as may be necessary to ensure
<u>such compliance.</u>

In lieu of the standards-based assessments prescribed in 5 (3)(a)Subparagraphs Subparagraph (1)(c) and (d) of this Subsection, an alternate 6 7 assessment shall be provided for and administered only to those students with 8 disabilities who meet specific eligibility criteria developed by the state Department 9 of Education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary 10 Education. A determination of whether any student meets the eligibility criteria 11 established by the state Department of Education shall be made by the student's 12 Individual Education Plan committee and shall be so noted on that student's 13 Individual Education Plan. The alternate assessment developed pursuant to this 14 Paragraph shall be administered on a schedule determined by the state Department 15 of Education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary 16 Education. The alternate assessment shall be part of the Louisiana Education 17 Assessment Program otherwise provided for in this Subsection and the alternate 18 assessment shall be used for information, accountability, compliance, and planning 19 purposes as provided by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

(b)

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\* \*

22 (ii) Students with persistent academic disabilities shall be allowed to take 23 academic assessments that are sensitive to measuring progress in their learning and 24 that recognize their individual needs. Academic assessments are to be geared specifically toward accommodating students to enable them to perform on standards-25 26 based assessments prescribed in Subparagraphs Subparagraph (1)(c) and (d) of this 27 Subsection. Such accommodations shall include at a minimum verbalized test 28 questions and shall provide for writing assistance of a scribe and any other 29 accommodations deemed appropriate by the student's Individual Education Plan

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- 1 committee. However, any such accommodations shall not breach test security or
- 2 invalidate the meaning of the test score or the purpose of the test.
- 3 \* \*
- 4 Section 2. R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(d), Part VI of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana

5 Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:391.2, and 391.3 through 391.13 are hereby

6 repealed in their 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. 554

**Abstract:** Provides for implementation of state content standards and related assessments subject to legislative approval and permits local school systems to develop and implement content standards in lieu of state standards.

Present law provides for the La. Competency-Based Education Program, including the development and implementation of statewide content standards for required subjects and the La. Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) by the state Dept. of Education with approval of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Provides that the standards shall represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary education and the workplace, as determined by content experts, elementary and secondary educators and school leaders, postsecondary education leaders, and business and industry leaders. Requires standards-based assessments for required subjects (English language arts, math, science, and social studies) to be implemented by 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. Provides for an alternate assessment to be administered to students with disabilities who meet criteria developed by the state Dept. of Education.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> except provides that implementation of the standards and related assessments is subject to legislative approval; repeals <u>present law</u> requirement that the standards-based assessments in English language arts and math be based on nationally recognized content standards; and requires that the state assessments be implemented in grades 3 through 11.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that the legislature may recommend changes to the standards. Provides that if the legislature fails to approve the initial standards the department shall implement the state standards used immediately prior to BESE's adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Further provides that the legislature shall approve any subsequent changes to the standards before they can be implemented.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the department to review and revise the rigor of the state assessments as necessary. Provides that if the legislature fails to approve the initial assessments the

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department shall implement the LEAP tests administered in 2012-2013 with any necessary revisions to ensure rigor as required in <u>present law</u>. Further provides that the legislature shall approve any subsequent changes to the standards before they can be implemented.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that local public school systems are not required to implement the state standards if they develop and implement content standards for required subjects that meet or exceed the rigor of the state standards as determined by the local superintendent.

<u>Present law</u> (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. <u>Proposed law</u> repeals <u>present law</u>.

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