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## DIGEST

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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.

Proposed law retains present law except provides that implementation of the standards and related assessments is subject to legislative approval; repeals present law 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.

Proposed law 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.

Proposed law 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 department

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

Proposed law 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.

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