
DIGEST

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Henry

HB No. 557

Abstract: Prohibits implementation of the Common Core State Standards and creates the Student Standards Task Force to study implementation of the standards.

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. Provides for implementation of the standards-based assessments by the department instead of BESE.

Proposed law prohibits implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Creates the Student Standards Task Force to study all aspects of the CCSS. Provides for task force membership, vacancies, meetings, voting, and compensation. Provides that the commission shall be subject to the Public Records Law and the Open Meetings Law. Provides that the task force study all costs associated with the implementation of CCSS at both the state and local levels. Provides that the task force determine the effectiveness and appropriateness of implementing the CCSS as compared to the state standards in place prior to implementation of CCSS. Requires the task force to report to the House and Senate education committees prior to the 2015 Regular Session. Provides that the task force will terminate on June 30, 2015.

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) and (c) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii); Adds R.S. 36:651(G)(4); Repeals R.S. 17:24.4(E)(2) and (F)(1)(d) and 391.2-391.13)