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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 10/22/09

SPONSOR Cote LAST UPDATED _____ HB 21

SHORT TITLE Suspend Certain School Assessments SB _____

ANALYST Aguilar/Varela

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

General Fund Budget Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
(\$2,300.0)	(\$2,417.0)	Recurring	General Fund
(\$160.0)	(\$650.0)	Nonrecurring	Fund 790

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates House Bill 18

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Public Education Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 21 provides for schools districts to suspend the administration of all required state assessments that are not required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act except short cycle assessments with the frequency of test administration left up to the districts discretion.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

For fiscal year 2010, school districts are funded for the administration, scoring and reporting of student academic achievement assessments through the State Equalization Guarantee grant. The level of recurring funding for student assessments was increased to \$8.92 million in FY10. The estimated total cost to school districts for the 2009-2010 student academic achievement assessments is \$10.164 million. The total reduction in costs to the school districts for temporarily suspending student testing not required by NCLB is \$2.3 million in FY10. According to PED, the total reduction in costs to the department for temporarily suspending student testing listed above is \$160 thousand in FY10.

This bill allows districts to absorb in part the appropriation reductions in House Bill 17 or similar legislation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill delays the administration of the college readiness assessment, the workforce readiness assessment and the alternative demonstration of competency using standards-based indicators until the 2011-2012 school year.

The delay in administering the college readiness assessment and the workforce readiness assessment is estimated to reduce PED costs for test development by an estimated \$30.0 in FY10 and \$100 thousand in FY11. Delaying implementation of the readiness assessments and the social studies subtest of the new high school graduation assessment is estimated to save the districts approximately \$415 thousand.

The bill also provides districts with the option of suspending the administration of required state assessments not required by NCLB.

Short cycle assessments will continue to be required but districts will determine the number of tests that will be administered annually.

PED estimates that if districts take full advantage of these provisions and suspend all but the NMLB required assessments, districts will save approximately \$3 million annually.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 18 is a duplicate of this bill.

PA:PTV/svb