

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** HM 46a

**49th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2010**

**Tracking Number:** .179585.1

**Short Title:** Study Reading & Math Scores & Dropout Rates

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Jeff Steinborn and Others

**Analyst:** Ally Hudson

**Date:** February 15, 2010

---

**AS AMENDED**

**The House Education Committee amendment requests a study of 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading and mathematics proficiency scores from the past two years (as opposed to 10 years), with breakdowns by school district (as opposed to by county and school districts).**

**Original Bill Summary:**

HM 46 requests:

- the Public Education Department (PED) to tabulate and compare the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading and mathematics proficiency scores for graduating and non-graduating students for the past 10 years, with breakdowns by school district;
- tabulations and comparisons that take into account contributing factors to non-graduation, such as transfer out of the school district, pregnancy, dropout, and other factors; and
- a final report of the study to be transmitted to the Governor, the Legislative Education Study Committee, the Higher Education Department (HED), the Workforce Solutions Department; and to be published on a publicly available website.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Legislative memorials do not contain an appropriation.

**Fiscal Issues:**

Memorials requesting that state agencies conduct studies are likely to have a fiscal impact in terms of staff time, travel, office supplies, and other items. This impact could be especially pronounced if the agencies are experiencing budget reductions or staff furloughs.

**Technical Issues:**

HM 46a does not specify a date for completion of the study.

**Substantive Issues:**

HED's analysis specifies two data issues that may pose a challenge to realizing the study for a 10-year period:

- although students in grades 4 and 8 have been tested for over 10 years, the nature of tests changed significantly in 2004; and
- prior to 2008, dropouts were only identified in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, thus making it difficult to identify dropouts from previous years.

**Related Bill(s):**

HB 69 *Reporting of Cohort Graduation Data*

HB 70 *Educational Data System*