

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** HB 97

**52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016**

**Tracking Number:** 202380.1

**Short Title:** Remove Some School Readiness Tests

**Sponsor(s):** Representative G. Andres Romero

**Analyst:** Christina McCorquodale

**Date:** January 27, 2016

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**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**

**Bill Summary:**

HB 97 amends the *Assessment and Accountability Act* to the *Public School Code* to remove the ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> grade short-cycle diagnostic assessments in reading, language arts, and mathematics from the state's readiness assessment system.

**Fiscal Impact:**

HB 97 does not include an appropriation.

The Public Education Department (PED) indicates that eliminating requirements for short-cycle assessments in ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> grade will save school districts money, although the department does not indicate an exact amount.

**Substantive Issues:**

Current law requires administration of short-cycle diagnostic assessments in reading, language arts, and mathematics:

- in ninth grade, in the fall and at least two additional times during the year; and
- in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, at least three times during the year.

According to the PED analysis, elimination of the requirement to administer short-cycle assessments in ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> grade is "logical and aligns with the state's current assessment system, which now requires summative testing of students in these grade levels."

**Background:**

Provisions in the *Assessment and Accountability Act* require assessment of students in certain grades "...to comply with federal accountability requirements; to provide the means whereby parents, students, public schools, and the public can assess the progress of students in learning and schools in teaching required academic content; and to institute a system in which public schools, school districts and the department are held accountable for ensuring student success."

Among its provisions, the *Assessment and Accountability Act* requires the following assessments:

- for third through eighth grade and 11<sup>th</sup> grade, standards-based assessments in mathematics, reading and language arts, and social studies;
- for third through eighth grade, a standards-based writing assessment with the writing assessment scoring criteria applied to the extended response writing portions of the language arts standards-based assessments;
- for one of the grades in third through fifth, sixth through eighth, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade, standards-based assessments in science;
- in grade 9, a short-cycle diagnostic assessment in reading, language arts, and mathematics to be locally administered in the fall and at least two additional times during the year;
- in grade 10, a short-cycle diagnostic assessment in reading, language arts, and mathematics that also serves as an early indicator of college readiness, to be locally administered at least three times during the year; and
- during the fall semester of grade 11, one or more of the following chosen by the student:
  - a college placement assessment;
  - a workforce readiness assessment; or
  - an alternative demonstration of competency using standards-based indicators.

Additionally, provisions relating to graduation in the *Public School Code* require final examinations to be administered to all students in classes offered for high school credit.