

Department of Planning and Budget

2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB930

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Greason

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Standards of Learning assessments; reform.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation would reduce the number of Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments given in elementary and middle schools. The bill would not amend the assessments given to high school students. The bill requires local school divisions to certify that instruction was given in each of the SOL subject areas in which a SOL assessment was not given and give students an alternate assessment that is consistent with the guidelines of the Board of Education. The bill also requires the Secretary of Education to establish and appoint the members of a Standards of Learning Innovation Committee. The committee, whose membership is set by the bill, is to periodically make recommendations to the Secretary on the SOL assessments and other subjects. Further, the bill contains an enactment clause authorizing the Board of Education to reduce the number of SOL assessments as long as the number and type of assessments meet the minimal requirements established by federal law.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 130.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill would reduce the number of SOL assessments that are given to elementary and middle school students, which would reduce the test administration cost of the Department of Education (DOE). Using the current costs of SOL assessment development, administration, scoring and reporting, DOE estimates that it will save approximately \$3.0 million in FY2015 and the out-years. The total amount is based on the cost savings of the five affected tests:

SOL Test	Estimated Cost Savings
Grade 3 History	\$381,460
Grade 3 Science	\$507,151
Content Specific History: US History I	\$379,804
Content Specific History: US History II	\$384,876
Grade 5 Writing	\$1,322,898
Total	\$2,976,189

The bill creates a standing committee of legislators, educators, members of the general public and state employees. Legislators, educators, and the general public are entitled to payment for certain costs associated with their service on boards and commissions. In addition, DOE would incur some costs to host the meetings. Since the bill does not specify the number of meetings the committee is to have each year, the fiscal impact from the committee cannot be determined at this time. Any additional costs from the standing committee would reduce the amount of savings to the state.

The bill requires local school divisions to give assessments for those SOL subject areas that will no longer be tested by the state. It cannot be determined at this time if localities will incur costs to develop and administer the assessments.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Education, Secretary of Education, Board of Education, local school divisions

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.

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