

Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB270

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Miller

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Third grade SOLs; math and English only.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation would direct the Board of Education to require only math and English reading Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments for third graders. Currently, the Board of Education also requires science and history SOL assessments for third graders.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 136.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill would eliminate the science and history SOL assessments that are currently required for third graders. The Department of Education would realize a savings resulting from processing fewer assessments. For the 2013-2014 school year, the third grade history SOL is expected to cost the state \$381,459 to develop, administer, score, and report. The science SOL will cost \$507,152. Depending on the number of third grade students in future fiscal years and the costs of administering the tests, the state would realize savings of approximately \$889,000 each fiscal year from the elimination of the two SOL assessments.

The Department of Education utilizes funding in its testing budget to develop technological enhancements for the SOL assessments, such as Computer Adaptive Testing. Reductions to the testing budget may reduce the resources available for the development of such enhancements.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/27/2014 dpb/smc

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