

## Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB2241

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

**2. Patron:** Austin

**3. Committee:** Education

**4. Title:** Standards of Learning tests; expedited retake.

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation would require the Board of Education to promulgate regulations to provide the same criteria for eligibility for an expedited retake of any Standards of Learning (SOL) test to all students regardless of grade level or course. The bill permits each school division to deem any student in grades three through eight who scores in the 375-399 range on any Standards of Learning test in the spring or summer terms of the 2014-2015 school year to be eligible for an expedited retake of such test. Currently, expedited retake is only available for assessments that are required for high school graduation. The bill contains an emergency clause and would become effective upon passage.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 130.

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The bill would allow students in grades three through eight who failed a SOL assessment within a specified range to retake the test within the same testing window. The Governor's introduced budget includes \$200,000 of general fund support in FY 2016 to cover the state costs related to expedited retakes for the reading, mathematics, science and history assessments in grades three through eight. Since the proposed legislation would also include the writing SOL assessment, an additional \$135,000 in general fund support would need to be provided in FY2016.

The bill authorizes school divisions to grant expedited retakes to students in FY2015. Since the bill contains an emergency clause which would make it effective upon passage, the legislation would be in effect in time for the SOL assessments at the end of the current school year. The Department of Education reports that it can implement the necessary changes to allow expedited retakes in FY2015. If all eligible students are granted retakes, it is anticipated that the proposed legislation would require an additional \$335,000 of general fund support in FY2015. However, since the proposed legislation gives school divisions an option to grant eligibility for expedited retakes, the fiscal impact for FY2015 may be less, depending on the number of students who are deemed eligible by the school division.

School divisions would be required to provide the space and staffing necessary for such retakes.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** It is recommended to strike the reference to summer on line 13 because grade 3 – 8 SOL assessments are not administered in the summer.

**11. Other Comments:** HB1302, HB1490, HB1668, HB2241, SB757, and SB874 also impact expedited retakes.

**Date:** 1/30/2015 dpb/smc

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