

Senate Study Bill 1239 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON QUIRMBACH)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to statewide assessments of student progress
2 utilizing core academic indicators.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b,
2 subparagraphs (1) and (2), Code 2015, are amended to read as
3 follows:

4 (1) Annually, the department shall report state data
5 for each indicator in the condition of education report.
6 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection shall specify that
7 the approved district-wide assessment of student progress
8 administered for purposes of the core academic indicators
9 shall be the assessment utilized by school districts statewide
10 in the school year beginning July 1, 2011, or a successor
11 assessment administered by the same assessment provider. This
12 subparagraph is repealed July 1, 2016.

13 (2) ~~Notwithstanding subparagraph (1), for~~ For the school
14 year beginning July 1, 2016, and each succeeding school year,
15 the rules shall provide that all students enrolled in school
16 districts in grades three through eleven shall be administered
17 ~~an assessment~~ the assessments developed by the smarter balanced
18 assessment consortium during the last quarter of the school
19 year ~~that at.~~ At a minimum assesses, the assessments shall
20 be used to assess student progress on the core academic
21 indicators identified in this paragraph "b"; ~~is~~ be aligned
22 with the Iowa ~~common~~ core standards in both content and rigor;
23 accurately ~~describes~~ describe student achievement and growth
24 for purposes of the school, the school district, and state
25 accountability systems; and ~~provides~~ provide valid, reliable,
26 and fair measures of student progress toward college or career
27 readiness.

28 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b,
29 subparagraph (3), Code 2015, is amended by striking the
30 subparagraph.

31 Sec. 3. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
32 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
33 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
34 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
35 received by the school district under section 257.16. This

1 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
2 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
3 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
4 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
5 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
6 districts.

7

EXPLANATION

8 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
9 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

10 This bill requires the state board of education's rules
11 to provide that for the school year beginning July 1, 2016,
12 and each succeeding school year, all students enrolled in
13 school districts in grades 3 through 11 shall be administered,
14 during the last quarter of the school year in order to assess
15 student progress on the core academic indicators, assessments
16 developed by the smarter balanced assessment consortium.
17 The smarter balanced assessment consortium, initiated by
18 the council of chief state school officers and the national
19 governors association center for best practices, is a state-led
20 consortium working collaboratively to develop assessments
21 aligned to the common core state standards that measure
22 student progress toward college and career readiness. The bill
23 provides for the July 1, 2016, repeal of a provision requiring
24 that the Iowa assessments be used for this purpose. The bill
25 makes corresponding changes.

26 The bill also strikes a Code provision that provides for the
27 establishment of an assessment task force to review and make
28 recommendations for a statewide assessment of student progress
29 on the core academic indicators. The Iowa assessment task
30 force submitted its findings and recommendations in a report to
31 the general assembly on December 31, 2014.

32 Currently, the state board is required to provide in rule for
33 a set of core academic indicators in mathematics and reading in
34 grades 4, 8, and 11, and for science in grades 8 and 11. The
35 Code also currently requires that the assessment administered

1 after July 1, 2016, must at a minimum be aligned with the Iowa
2 common core (Iowa core) standards in both content and rigor;
3 accurately describe student achievement and growth for purposes
4 of the school, the school district, and state accountability
5 systems; and provide valid, reliable, and fair measures of
6 student progress toward college or career readiness.

7 Since the school year beginning July 1, 2011, school
8 districts have used the Iowa assessments developed by Iowa
9 testing programs (ITP), a research, development, and outreach
10 unit in the college of education at the university of Iowa.
11 Iowa testing programs was responsible for creating and
12 administering the Iowa test of basic skills and the Iowa test
13 of educational development. In recent years, ITP modified
14 these tests and renamed them the Iowa assessments.

15 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
16 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
17 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
18 district from state school foundation aid received by the
19 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
20 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
21 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
22 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
23 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
24 mandates included in the bill.