

House File 312 - Introduced

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to statewide assessments of student progress
2 administered by school districts for purposes of the core
3 academic indicators.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b,
2 subparagraph (1), Code 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) Annually, the department shall report state data
4 for each indicator in the condition of education report.
5 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection shall specify that
6 the approved district-wide assessment of student progress
7 administered for purposes of the core academic indicators shall
8 be the ~~assessment utilized by school districts statewide in the~~
9 ~~school year beginning July 1, 2011, or a successor assessment~~
10 ~~administered by the same assessment provider~~ Iowa assessments
11 developed by Iowa testing programs. The state board and the
12 department are prohibited from adopting, administering, or
13 approving the administration of assessments developed by the
14 smarter balanced assessment consortium.

15 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b,
16 subparagraphs (2), (3), and (4), Code 2015, are amended by
17 striking the subparagraphs.

18 EXPLANATION

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

21 This bill relates to statewide assessments approved by
22 the state board of education and administered to students by
23 Iowa's school districts and requires that the state board of
24 education's rules specify that the Iowa assessments developed
25 by Iowa testing programs are the approved district-wide
26 assessments of student progress administered for purposes of
27 the core academic indicators. Iowa testing programs is a
28 research, development, and outreach unit in the college of
29 education at the university of Iowa, which has been responsible
30 for creating and administering the Iowa test of basic skills
31 and the Iowa test of educational development to Iowa's students
32 for several decades. In recent years, Iowa testing programs
33 modified the tests and renamed them the Iowa assessments. The
34 Iowa assessments have been used by school districts statewide
35 since the 2011-2012 academic year, as directed in the Code.

1 The department uses the results from the Iowa assessments for
2 federal annual yearly progress and annual progress reporting
3 purposes.

4 The bill prohibits the state board and the department of
5 education from adopting, administering, or approving the
6 administration of assessments developed by the smarter balanced
7 assessment consortium. Initiated by the council of chief state
8 school officers and the national governors association center
9 for best practices, the smarter balanced assessment consortium
10 is a state-led consortium working collaboratively to develop
11 assessments aligned to the common core state standards that
12 accurately measure student progress toward college and career
13 readiness.

14 The bill strikes a Code provision that directs the state
15 board's rules to require that all students enrolled in school
16 districts in grades 3 through 11 be administered an assessment
17 during the last quarter of the school year that at a minimum
18 assesses the core academic indicators identified in the Code;
19 is aligned with the Iowa common core standards in both content
20 and rigor; accurately describes student achievement and growth
21 for purposes of the school, the school district, and state
22 accountability systems; and provides valid, reliable, and
23 fair measures of student progress toward college or career
24 readiness.

25 The bill also strikes a Code provision that provides for
26 the establishment of an assessment task force to review and
27 make recommendations for a statewide assessment of student
28 progress on the core academic indicators, and a Code provision
29 that directs the state board to submit to the general assembly
30 recommendations for modifications of assessments of student
31 progress. The task force and the state board submitted their
32 recommendations during the 2014-2015 fiscal year.