

**House File 139 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 139

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**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the statewide assessments of student  
2 progress administered by school districts for purposes of  
3 the core 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 2017, 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~~ Iowa assessments developed  
10 by the Iowa testing programs, or a successor assessment  
11 administered by the ~~same assessment provider~~ Iowa testing  
12 programs.

13 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b,  
14 subparagraph (2), Code 2017, is amended by striking the  
15 subparagraph and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

16 (2) If the state board proposes rules providing for a  
17 statewide assessment other than the assessment required under  
18 subparagraph (1), the state board shall submit its proposed  
19 rules to the general assembly and shall not adopt such  
20 rules unless the proposed rules are specifically authorized  
21 by a constitutional majority of each house of the general  
22 assembly and approved by the governor. The state board and  
23 the department are prohibited from adopting, administering,  
24 or approving the administration of assessments developed  
25 either by the smarter balanced assessment consortium or by  
26 the partnership for assessment of readiness for college and  
27 careers.

28 Sec. 3. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b,  
29 subparagraphs (3) and (4), Code 2017, are amended by striking  
30 the subparagraphs.

31 EXPLANATION

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

34 This bill relates to statewide assessments approved by  
35 the state board of education and administered to students by

1 Iowa's school districts and requires that the state board's  
2 rules specify that the Iowa assessments developed by Iowa  
3 testing programs are the approved district-wide assessments of  
4 student progress administered for purposes of the core academic  
5 indicators.

6 Iowa testing programs is a research, development, and  
7 outreach unit in the college of education at the university of  
8 Iowa, which has been responsible for creating and administering  
9 the Iowa test of basic skills and the Iowa test of educational  
10 development to Iowa's students for several decades. In recent  
11 years, Iowa testing programs modified the tests and renamed  
12 them the Iowa assessments. The Iowa assessments have been used  
13 by school districts statewide since the 2011-2012 academic  
14 year, as directed in the Code. The department of education  
15 uses the results from the Iowa assessments for federal annual  
16 yearly progress and annual progress reporting purposes.

17 If the state board proposes rules providing for a statewide  
18 assessment other than the Iowa assessments, the state board  
19 must submit its proposed rules to the general assembly and  
20 shall not adopt such rules unless the proposed rules are  
21 specifically authorized by a constitutional majority of each  
22 house of the general assembly and approved by the governor.

23 The bill prohibits the state board and the department of  
24 education from adopting, administering, or approving the  
25 administration of assessments developed either by the smarter  
26 balanced assessment consortium or by the partnership for  
27 assessment readiness for college and careers. Initiated by  
28 the council of chief state school officers and the national  
29 governors association center for best practices, the smarter  
30 balanced assessment consortium is a state-led consortium  
31 working collaboratively to develop assessments aligned to the  
32 common core state standards that accurately measure student  
33 progress toward college and career readiness. Like the smarter  
34 balanced assessment consortium, the partnership for assessment  
35 of readiness for college and careers is a group of states

1 working together to develop an assessment to replace member  
2 states' standardized tests.

3 The bill strikes a Code provision that directs the state  
4 board's rules to require, for the school year beginning  
5 July 1, 2017, and each succeeding school year, that all  
6 students enrolled in school districts in grades 3 through  
7 ll be administered an assessment during the last quarter of  
8 the school year that at a minimum assesses the core academic  
9 indicators identified in the Code; is aligned with the Iowa  
10 common core standards in both content and rigor; accurately  
11 describes student achievement and growth for purposes of the  
12 school, the school district, and state accountability systems;  
13 and provides valid, reliable, and fair measures of student  
14 progress toward college or career readiness.

15 The bill also strikes a Code provision that provides for  
16 the establishment of an assessment task force to review and  
17 make recommendations for a statewide assessment of student  
18 progress on the core academic indicators, and a Code provision  
19 that directs the state board to submit to the general assembly  
20 recommendations for modifications of assessments of student  
21 progress. The task force and the state board submitted their  
22 recommendations during the 2014-2015 fiscal year.