

HCS HB 1250 -- STUDENT ASSESSMENT

SPONSOR: Wood

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 19 to 0.

This bill revises the law on student assessment as follows:

- (1) Prohibits the state and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education from contracting with an out-of-state company to develop and implement statewide assessments, after June 30, 2017;
- (2) Requires the department to create a question database for each grade-level standard from suggestions submitted by teachers and to develop a process for soliciting and reviewing submissions, after June 30, 2017;
- (3) Requires the department to move towards administering statewide assessments on-line throughout the year rather than at the end of the course or the end of school year. Until that goal is achieved, the department must ensure that alternative assessment methods remain available;
- (4) Restricts the number of end-of-course assessments used in determining an annual performance report or accreditation status to no more than five;
- (5) Restricts the amount and scope of student data collected in the assessment process to that of the 2013-14 school year;
- (6) Requires, as of the 2015-16 school year, school districts to implement competency-based instruction and promotion in kindergarten through third grade; and
- (7) Revises the existing law on assessment to:
 - (a) Require the updating of the assessment system;
 - (b) Delete the restriction on the use of the assessment system to only comparison of a school's current performance to its past performance;
 - (c) Eliminate the Outstanding Schools Waiver; and
 - (d) Delete the obsolete requirements for yearly testing and waivers of the resource and process standards.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is the result of testimony taken by the Interim Committee on Education in 2013. It will reduce the amount of statewide testing, develop tests within Missouri, and allow more flexibility for students to take tests as they complete units of instruction rather than waiting until the end of the year.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wood; Missouri State Teachers Association; Missouri Association of School Administrators; Missouri National Education Association; and Missouri School Board Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education was consulted during the development of the bill.

Testifying on the bill was Mark Van Zandt, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.