SPONSOR: Swan

This bill requires each school district to develop a policy and implement a system by July 1, 2016, for identifying students in their ninth grade year and students who transfer into the school after ninth grade who are at risk of not being ready for college-level work or for entry-level career positions. Indicators include, but are not limited to, performance on the English I and Algebra I statewide assessments; the district's reported remediation rate; and the student attendance rate. The district policy must require academic and career counseling to take place sufficiently prior to graduation for any at-risk student to ensure the ability of the school to provide sufficient opportunities to the student to graduate college or career ready and on time.

The bill repeals the provision that prohibits the use of the reported remediation rate for other purposes and requires:

- (1) Beginning with school year 2015-16, each district with a remediation rate higher than 10% percent to schedule a school board discussion of the rate in the July school board meeting following the reporting of the rate;
- (2) By October 31, 2015, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct a review of its policies and procedures relating to best practices in remediation as identified by the Department of Higher Education to ensure that districts are informed about and held accountable for implementing the best practices. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must present its results to the Joint Committee on Education by October 31, 2015; and
- (3) By July 1, 2017, the Department of Higher Education in consultation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a report that analyzes the results of the remediation rate report relative to student performance on the statewide assessments for English I and Algebra I.