

HB 2420 -- COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION DUTIES

SPONSOR: Spencer

This bill changes the duties of the Commissioner of Education in their role as supervisor of the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE). The commissioner is required to support local school boards and interpret, develop, and distribute to the public a written report of student test performance as described within the act.

Before awarding contracts, exceeding fifty thousand dollars, to vendors the commissioner must submit the evaluation rubric and bids, as described within the act, to the Joint Committee on Education for review and comment. The Joint Committee may veto the Commissioner's proposal.

The commissioner and DESE staff must provide accurate and documented information when testifying at legislative hearings, as described within the act. Failure to do so will result in the immediate termination of the commissioner.

The commissioner must establish a procedure for regularly providing advice to the State Board of Education whenever the board changes or evaluates the standards for academic performance, learning, or statewide assessments.

The commissioner must provide information to the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tem of the Senate within six months prior of any changes or implementation of statewide assessments. The General Assembly may veto such changes or implementation within sixty days of receiving the information as described within the act.

The commissioner may not be employed by vendors, certain nongovernmental organizations or other contractors to DESE within two years of leaving the position.