

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

February 18, 2013

TO: Honorable Jimmie Don Aycock, Chair, House Committee on Public Education

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB659 by Strama (Relating to state assessment instruments administered in public schools.), **As Introduced**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB659, As Introduced: a negative impact of (\$2,100,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2015.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2014	\$0
2015	(\$2,100,000)
2016	(\$2,100,000)
2017	\$0
2018	(\$2,100,000)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Savings/(Cost) from Foundation School Fund 193
2014	\$0
2015	(\$2,100,000)
2016	(\$2,100,000)
2017	\$0
2018	(\$2,100,000)

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would require a student's performance on an end-of-course assessment to account for 15 percent of the student's second semester grade for the course, instead of 15 percent of the final grade for the course currently required by statute.

The bill would require the annual release of questions and answer keys to each state assessment instrument instead of every three years.

The bill would require the Texas Education Agency to notify districts and campuses of the results of assessment instruments within 21 days of the administration of the assessment.

The bill would require a school district, including a disciplinary alternative education program provided by the district or a juvenile justice alternative education program, to provide a student the opportunity to retake the assessment by computer at any reasonable time.

The bill would remove the requirement that a student must achieve a minimum cumulative score across all end-of-course assessments to graduate. The bill would require a student to meet a minimum score on the English II and Algebra I assessments.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2013-14 school year.

Methodology

Requiring the annual release of questions and answer keys to each assessment instrument would require additional costs related to the development of new questions and answers. According to the Texas Education Agency, such development costs would equal \$2.1 million per year.

Currently, statute requires the questions and answers to be released every third year, and the questions and answers are scheduled to be released in fiscal year 2014 and again in fiscal year 2017. Therefore, any additional costs wouldn't occur until fiscal year 2015 and no additional costs would be incurred in fiscal year 2017.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 701 Central Education Agency

LBB Staff: UP, JBi, JSc, AH