A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING AUTHORIZING A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER TO
DETERMINE THE LANGUAGE IN WHICH A STUDENT WHO IS AN
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER TAKES READING ASSESSMENTS IN
KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does
not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill
passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that
applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at
http://leg.colorado.gov.)

The bill specifies that, if a student enrolled in kindergarten or one
of grades one through 3 is an English language learner, the school district
or charter school in which the student is enrolled will decide whether the
student takes the reading assessments in English or in the student's native language if there is an approved assessment available in the student's native language. If the student takes the assessments in his or her native language, the school district or charter school may also administer the assessments in English if requested by the student's parent. If a student who is an English language learner takes the reading assessments in his or her native language, the school district or charter school must determine the level of English proficiency at which the student will take the reading assessments in English and communicate that proficiency level to the student's parent.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1205, add (1)(a.7) as follows:

22-7-1205. Reading competency - assessments - READ plan creation - parental involvement. (1) (a.7) The local education provider shall determine whether a student who is an English language learner, as defined in section 22-24-103, and whose native language is Spanish, takes the reading assessments in English or in Spanish. If the student takes the reading assessments in Spanish, the local education provider may also administer a reading assessment in English to the student at the request of the student's parent. If the state board adopts a list of approved reading assessments pursuant to section 22-7-1209 that includes assessments in languages other than English or Spanish, the local education provider shall determine whether a student who is an English language learner and whose native language is not Spanish takes the reading assessments in English or in the student's native language if there is an approved reading assessment in the student's native language. If the student takes the reading assessments in the student's native language if there is an approved assessment available in the student's native language. If the student takes the assessments in his or her native language, the school district or charter school may also administer the assessments in English if requested by the student's parent. If a student who is an English language learner takes the reading assessments in his or her native language, the school district or charter school must determine the level of English proficiency at which the student will take the reading assessments in English and communicate that proficiency level to the student's parent.
LANGUAGE, THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY ALSO ADMINISTER A
READING ASSESSMENT IN ENGLISH TO THE STUDENT AT THE REQUEST OF
THE STUDENT'S PARENT. IF THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER DECIDES
THAT A STUDENT WHO IS AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER MUST TAKE
THE READING ASSESSMENTS IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH, THE
LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL DETERMINE, AND COMMUNICATE TO
THE STUDENT'S PARENT IN A LANGUAGE THE PARENT UNDERSTANDS, IF
POSSIBLE, THE LEVEL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AT WHICH THE
STUDENT MUST TAKE THE READING ASSESSMENTS IN ENGLISH. IF THE
STUDENT HAS A SIGNIFICANT READING DEFICIENCY, THE LOCAL
EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY COMMUNICATE THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED
IN THIS SUBSECTION (1)(a.7) TO THE STUDENT'S PARENT WITH THE
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.