

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 556

BY REPRESENTATIVES HENRY AND RICHARD

STUDENT/STANDARDS: Prohibits implementation of Common Core State Standards and provides for implementation of prior standards

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4), (E), and (F)(1)(a) and (c) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii)
3 and to repeal R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(d) and Part VI of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the
4 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:391.2 through 391.13,
5 relative to education standards and related assessments; to prohibit the
6 implementation of the Common Core State Standards; to provide for the
7 implementation of certain prior standards; to repeal obsolete provisions relative to
8 public school accountability and assessment; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4), (E), and (F)(1)(a) and (c) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii) are
11 hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

12 §24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for
13 required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish or city
14 school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

15 A. As used in this Section, the following words, terms, and phrases shall
16 have the meaning ascribed to them in this Subsection, except when the context
17 clearly indicates a different meaning:

18 * * *

19 (4) "The statewide content standards for required subjects" are statements
20 that define what a student should know or be able to accomplish at the end of a
21 specific time period or grade level or at the completion of a course. ~~Content~~
22 standards shall represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully

1 transition to postsecondary education and the workplace, as determined by content
2 experts, elementary and secondary educators and school leaders, postsecondary
3 education leaders, and business and industry leaders.

4 * * *

5 E.(1) The state Department of Education ~~shall~~, with the approval of the State
6 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, ~~as part of the Louisiana~~
7 ~~Competency-Based Education Program, develop and establish~~ shall implement
8 statewide content standards for required subjects to be taught in the public
9 elementary and secondary schools of this state as provided in Paragraph (2) of this
10 Subsection. The statewide content standards for required subjects shall be
11 implemented by the state Department of Education as approved by the State Board
12 of Elementary and Secondary Education, with recommendations prior to approval
13 and advice from the educational personnel in the public schools and colleges and
14 universities of this state.

15 (2) The state Department of Education or the State Board of Elementary and
16 Secondary Education shall not implement the Common Core State Standards for any
17 subject. The department shall implement the state standards used immediately prior
18 to the adoption of the Common Core State Standards by the State Board of
19 Elementary and Secondary Education and shall make improvements to the standards
20 as may be necessary.

21 * * *

22 F.(1)(a) The state Department of Education shall ~~begin implementation of~~
23 ~~a~~ implement the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program with the approval of the
24 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

25 * * *

26 (c) Standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics,
27 science, and social studies shall be based on state content standards that represent the
28 knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary
29 education and the workplace and rigorous student achievement standards set with

1 reference to test scores of students of the same grade level nationally. The
2 assessments shall be implemented by the ~~State Board of Elementary and Secondary~~
3 ~~Education. Such tests~~ state Department of Education and shall be administered, ~~at~~
4 ~~a minimum~~, in grades three through eleven.

5 * * *

6 (3)(a) In lieu of the standards-based assessments prescribed in
7 ~~Subparagraphs~~ Subparagraph (1)(c) ~~and (d)~~ of this Subsection, an alternate
8 assessment shall be provided for and administered only to those students with
9 disabilities who meet specific eligibility criteria developed by the state Department
10 of Education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
11 Education. A determination of whether any student meets the eligibility criteria
12 established by the state Department of Education shall be made by the student's
13 Individual Education Plan committee and shall be so noted on that student's
14 Individual Education Plan. The alternate assessment developed pursuant to this
15 Paragraph shall be administered on a schedule determined by the state Department
16 of Education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
17 Education. The alternate assessment shall be part of the Louisiana Education
18 Assessment Program otherwise provided for in this Subsection and the alternate
19 assessment shall be used for information, accountability, compliance, and planning
20 purposes as provided by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

21 (b)

22 * * *

23 (ii) Students with persistent academic disabilities shall be allowed to take
24 academic assessments that are sensitive to measuring progress in their learning and
25 that recognize their individual needs. Academic assessments are to be geared
26 specifically toward accommodating students to enable them to perform on standards-
27 based assessments prescribed in ~~Subparagraphs~~ Subparagraph (1)(c) ~~and (d)~~ of this
28 Subsection. Such accommodations shall include at a minimum verbalized test
29 questions and shall provide for writing assistance of a scribe and any other

1 accommodations deemed appropriate by the student's Individual Education Plan
2 committee. However, any such accommodations shall not breach test security or
3 invalidate the meaning of the test score or the purpose of the test.

4 * * *

5 Section 2. R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(d) and Part VI of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the
6 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:391.2 through 391.13, are hereby
7 repealed in their entirety.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Henry

HB No. 556

Abstract: Prohibits implementation of Common Core State Standards and provides for implementation of prior standards.

Present law provides for the La. Competency-Based Education Program, including the implementation of statewide standards for required subjects and the La. Educational Assessment Program (LEAP). Requires standards-based assessments for required subjects (English language arts, math, science, and social studies) to be implemented by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and administered in at least grades 3 through 11. Provides that such assessments be based on state content standards and rigorous student achievement standards comparable to national student achievement levels. Further requires that the rigor of such assessments shall at least compare to that of national achievement tests. Specifies that beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the standards-based assessments in English language arts and math shall be based on nationally recognized content standards. Requires BESE to establish the adequate test scores for determining successful student performance on the tests. Proposed law retains present law provisions with regard to implementation of LEAP tests except requires the tests to be administered in grades 3 through 11.

Proposed law deletes present law requirement that the standards-based assessments in English language arts and math be based on nationally recognized content standards. Provides for implementation of the standards-based assessments by the department instead of BESE.

Proposed law prohibits implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and provides for implementation of standards in place immediately prior to adoption of CCSS by BESE.

Present law (R.S. 17:391.2-391.13), relative to public school accountability and assessment, includes requirements for an educational accountability program, pupil proficiency levels, course content evaluations, standardized test administration, and public school accreditation. Further provides for school readiness assessments for students entering kindergarten and a talent search program for junior high students. Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4), (E), and (F)(1)(a) and (c) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii); Repeals R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(d) and 391.2-391.13)