

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 771

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHRODER

STUDENT/ASSESSMENT: Provides relative to state assessments as a requirement for student promotion and graduation

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(F)(4)(a) and 183.2(B)(1) and (2)(introductory
3 paragraph) and to enact R.S. 17:24.4(F)(5), relative to state assessments; to provide
4 that a student shall not be required to meet state exit examination requirements as a
5 condition for promotion or graduation or to earn a high school diploma; to provide
6 for the submission of petitions by certain students regarding receipt of a diploma; to
7 provide for procedures, guidelines, and rules relative to such petitions; to provide for
8 reporting requirements for the state Department of Education; and to provide for
9 related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(F)(4)(a) and 183.2(B)(1) and (2)(introductory paragraph) are
12 hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:24.4(F)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

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

16 * * *

17 F.

18 * * *

19 (4)(a) ~~In addition to the other requirements of this Subsection, the state~~
20 ~~Department of Education shall establish, subject to the approval of the State Board~~

1 ~~of Elementary and Secondary Education, the level of achievement on certain of the~~
2 ~~tests or on certain portions of the tests given as required in this Subsection in fourth~~
3 ~~and eighth grades as definitive of the level of the student's proficiency in~~
4 ~~mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies. Fourth and eighth~~
5 ~~grade students shall be required to demonstrate proficiency on such tests in order to~~
6 ~~advance to grades five and nine, pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of~~
7 ~~Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance with the Administrative~~
8 ~~Procedure Act. Such proficiency levels shall be set with reference to test scores of~~
9 ~~students of the same grade level nationally. The department~~ The state Department
10 of Education shall establish, subject to the approval of the State Board of Elementary
11 and Secondary Education, the nature and application of various intervention options
12 in the case of a failure to demonstrate proficiency, which may include remediation;
13 ~~retention in grade, an alternative placement in succeeding grades, or any other option~~
14 which will support a student's ~~achieving the required proficiency level~~ learning.

* * *

16 (5)(a) Beginning with the graduating class of 2017, a student shall not be
17 required to meet state exit examination requirements as a condition for promotion
18 or graduation or to earn a Louisiana high school diploma.

19 (b) A person who is no longer enrolled in a public school and who previously
20 failed to receive a high school diploma or was denied graduation solely for failing
21 to meet the exit examination requirements pursuant to State Board of Elementary and
22 Secondary Education rules, regulations, or policy may petition the city, parish, or
23 other local public school board to determine if he is eligible to receive a high school
24 diploma pursuant to this Paragraph. A petition shall be submitted to the local school
25 board by December 31, 2017.

26 (c) The local school board shall transmit diploma requests to the state
27 Department of Education in accordance with department procedures and guidelines.
28 A person receiving a diploma pursuant to this Paragraph shall not be counted as a

1 graduate in any graduation rate calculations for affected schools and districts,
2 including calculations for any prior year.

3 (d) Not later than January 31, 2017, the state Department of Education shall
4 report in writing to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the
5 House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education the number
6 of diplomas granted, by school district, pursuant to this Paragraph.

7 (e) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
8 promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the
9 implementation of this Paragraph. The state Department of Education shall
10 disseminate a copy of the requirements of this Paragraph and procedures and
11 guidelines for submitting petitions to each city, parish, and other local public school
12 system not later than forty-five days after the effective date of this Paragraph. Such
13 procedures and guidelines shall include but shall not be limited to the following:

14 (i) The eligibility criteria for submitting a petition.

15 (ii) The petition process, including but not limited to the deadline for
16 submitting a petition and all other applicable deadlines.

17 (iii) A contact name and phone number at the state Department of Education
18 available to persons submitting petitions.

19 * * *

20 §183.2. Career option description

21 * * *

22 B.(1) If the student, for any two of the three most recent school years, or for
23 a student in high school, the two most recent administrations of any state-established
24 assessments ~~required for graduation~~, has not otherwise met state-established
25 benchmarks on required state assessments, the student's Individualized Education
26 Program team shall have the option of determining an alternative pathway to
27 graduation for the student.

28 (2) If an Individualized Education Program team determines that ~~state-~~
29 ~~established benchmarks on the required state assessments are no longer a condition~~

number of years, the student's Individualized Education Program team shall have the option of determining an alternative pathway to graduation for the student. Provides that if an Individualized Education Program team determines that state-established benchmarks on the required state assessments are no longer a condition for promotion or graduation for a student, the team shall establish minimum performance requirements in the student's Individualized Education Plan relevant to promotion or graduation requirements, including but not limited to end-of-course assessments and shall provide the student and his parent or legal guardian with information related to how requirements that vary from standard expectations may impact future educational and career options. Proposed law provides that the team shall only take such actions if the team determines that an alternative pathway is appropriate for the student instead of if it determines that state-established benchmarks on the required state assessments are no longer a condition for promotion or graduation for the student. Deletes present law reference to state-established assessments *required for graduation*.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(F)(4)(a) and 183.2(B)(1) and (2)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 17:24.4(F)(5))