A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING ALLOWING LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO ADMINISTER CERTAIN STATE ASSESSMENTS TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SPECIFIED GRADES.

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.)

Under existing law, each local education provider must administer the state assessments in math and English language arts to students enrolled in ninth grade and must administer the state-selected assessment to students enrolled in tenth grade. Each local education provider must also administer a state social studies assessment to students in one...
elementary-school grade, one middle-school grade, and one high-school grade on a 3-year schedule.

Under the bill, each local education provider may choose whether to administer the state social studies assessments, the ninth-grade math and English language arts state assessments, and the tenth-grade assessment. The bill repeals the requirement that the department of education apply for a waiver to administer the ninth-grade math and English language arts state assessments to satisfy federal requirements.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1006.3, amend (1)(a)(I), (1)(a)(III), and (2)(a); and repeal (1)(b) as follows:

22-7-1006.3. State assessments - administration - rules.

(1) (a) Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, the department of education, in collaboration with local education providers, shall administer the state assessments in the instructional areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, as adopted by the state board pursuant to section 22-7-1006, as follows:

(I) The department shall administer a state assessment in English language arts and a state assessment in mathematics to all students enrolled in grades three through nine in public schools throughout the state; EXCEPT THAT EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY CHOOSE WHETHER TO REQUIRE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN NINTH GRADE TO TAKE THE STATE ASSESSMENTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS.

(III) (A) The department shall administer a state assessment in social studies to students enrolled in public elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the state. The department shall select the specific grades in which to administer the state social studies assessment, ensuring that students take the state social studies assessment once in elementary school, once in middle school, and once in high school; except that the
department shall not administer the state social studies assessment to
students enrolled in twelfth grade. The department shall administer the
social studies assessment in a representative sample of public schools
each school year, ensuring that it administers the social studies
assessment in each public school at least once every three years. A school
district, for one or more of the schools of the school district that are not
included in the representative sample, or a charter school that is not
included in the representative sample, may request that the department
administer the assessment in the district school or charter school. The
department shall administer the social studies assessment in the requested
school in the school year following the school year in which it receives
the request.

(B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF SUBSECTION
(1)(a)(III)(A) OF THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, A LOCAL EDUCATION
PROVIDER MAY CHOOSE WHETHER TO REQUIRE STUDENTS TO TAKE THE
STATE SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENTS.

(b) As soon as practicable after May 20, 2015, the department of
education shall apply to the federal department of education for a waiver
of federal statutory and regulatory requirements as may be necessary to
allow the department to satisfy the federal high school assessment
requirements by administering assessments in English language arts and
mathematics to students enrolled in ninth grade:

(2) (a) The department of education shall select and the state shall
pay the costs of administering an assessment that is aligned with the state
academic standards for students enrolled in tenth grade and with the
assessment selected pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (2)
SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION. Every five years, the department
shall request competitive bids and contract for the assessment required in
this paragraph (a) SUBSECTION (2)(a). Each local education provider shall
MAY administer the assessment for students enrolled in tenth grade. Each
local education provider shall THAT Chooses to Administer the
Tenth-grade assessment MUST administer the tenth-grade assessment
on a schedule that the department annually sets.

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act
takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a
referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.