A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING REQUIRING A SINGLE STATEWIDE END-OF-YEAR ASSESSMENT FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN NINTH GRADE THAT IS ALIGNED WITH THE TENTH-GRADE STATE ASSESSMENT.

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 ninth-grade students and must administer a state-selected assessment to tenth-grade students. The bill repeals the requirement to administer the state assessment to ninth-grade students. Instead, local education providers...
must administer a state-selected ninth-grade assessment that is aligned with the ninth-grade content standards and the assessment administered to tenth-grade students. The department of education must ensure that, under the testing schedule, ninth-grade students take the state-selected assessment in the spring semester.

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), (2)(a), and (10); repeal (1)(b); and add (2)(a.5) 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.

(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)(a.5) OF THIS SECTION. Every five years, the department shall request competitive bids and contract for the assessment required in this paragraph (a). Each local education provider shall administer the assessment for students enrolled in tenth grade. Each local education provider shall administer the tenth-grade assessment on a schedule that the department annually sets. SUBSECTION (2)(a). THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY SCHEDULE A DAY DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER ON WHICH EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL ADMINISTER THE NINTH-GRADE ASSESSMENT TO ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN NINTH GRADE IN THE STATE.

(a.5) 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 SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION. EVERY FIVE YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUEST COMPETITIVE BIDS AND CONTRACT FOR THE ASSESSMENT REQUIRED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2)(a.5). EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL ADMINISTER THE ASSESSMENT FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN TENTH GRADE. EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL ADMINISTER THE TENTH-GRADE ASSESSMENT ON A SCHEDULE THAT THE DEPARTMENT ANNUALLY SETS.

(10) For each fiscal year, the general assembly shall appropriate money in the annual general appropriation act to the department of education to fund administration of the state assessments as described in this section, including administration of the NINTH-GRADE ASSESSMENT, THE TENTH-GRADE ASSESSMENT, AND THE CURRICULUM-BASED, ACHIEVEMENT COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM DESCRIBED 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.