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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**53rd Legislature, 1st Session, 2017**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>SB253</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Sapien</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.204351.3</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>SEC/SPAC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>Withdraw NM from PARCC Test</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>McCorquodale</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>2/9/17</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u>3/1/17</u>

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**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 253 (SB253) enacts a new section of the Assessment and Accountability Act to require New Mexico to cease its participation in the consortium with Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) no later than July 1, 2017. SB253 requires the Public Education Department (PED) to design or contract for a new assessment beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The House and Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bill 2 in FY18 includes \$4.7 million for PARCC standards-based assessments. It is unclear if \$4.7 million would be sufficient to fund a new standards-based assessment.

Section 22-2C-4, NMSA 1978, requires all students in third through eighth grade and 11th grade to participate in the statewide standards-based assessment program. However, PED requires all third through 11th grade students to participate in the statewide standards-based assessment program. LFC noted it may be possible to decrease costs by not testing students in ninth and 10th grade.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

In 2001, under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), every state was required to test students in English language arts and mathematics in third through eighth grade and 11th grade. This is still mandated under the new Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA). SB253 requires PED to design or contract for a new standards-based assessment beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. The short timeline may pose a risk of losing out on federal funding if the state is unable to obtain a new standards-based assessment in time for the 2017-2018 school year. The sponsor may want to consider pushing back the deadline to 2018 instead of 2017.

Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 requires PED to establish a statewide assessment and accountability system. Initially a member of Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), PED joined the PARCC testing consortium in 2011. The PARCC assessment was administered to students for the first time in the 2014-2015 school year.

In 2010, the PARCC consortia had 26 members. Currently, only 11 states and education entities are members of the consortia: six states fully participate (Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Rhode Island, including the District of Columbia); and several states or education entities participate at varying levels (Massachusetts, Louisiana, the Department of Defense schools, and the Bureau of Indian Education). Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, PARCC offered a tiered approach that allows any state or other education entity to have access to PARCC assessments at varying levels.

The secretary of PED sits on the governing board of PARCC as Chair.

### **OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to PARCC website, PARCC is a consortium of states that work to create a standard set of kindergarten through 12th grade assessments in English language arts and literacy and mathematics that are aligned to the common core state standards (CCSS). PARCC was awarded Race to the Top assessment funds in September 2010 by the U.S. Department of Education to help in the development of kindergarten through 12th grade assessments. PARCC included educators, administrators, and postsecondary educators in the development of the assessments.

### **RELATED BILLS**

SJM1, Student Assessment Policy Working Group, requests PED and the Legislative Education Study Committee to convene a working group to develop recommendations for a new student assessment policy aligned with the alternative assessment models allowed by the federal ESSA.

### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- Legislative Education Study Committee Files
- Legislative Finance Committee
- PARCC website

**CMC/rab**