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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/9/15

SPONSOR Romero/Ryan LAST UPDATED 3/18/15 HB 539/aHEC

SHORT TITLE Eliminate Certain Grade 9 & 10 Assessments SB _____

ANALYST Chavez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		See Fiscal Implications				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Western New Mexico University (WNMU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment to House Bill 539 removes the term “diagnostic” from the original bill and restores original language allowing PED to adopt commercially available standards-based assessments or approve a school district's or charter school's short-cycle assessments.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 539 amends the Assessment and Accountability Act in the Public School Code to remove assessment requirements from the readiness assessment system for ninth and tenth grade students. Current law requires administration of a short-cycle diagnostic assessment in reading, language arts, and math to ninth- and 10th-grade students at least three times a year.

The bill corrects grammar by changing “workforce” to “work force”, and adds “diagnostic” after “short-cycle” to the section of the Act that discusses the PED’s development, selection or approval of high school or college readiness assessments.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill does not contain an appropriation. Elimination of assessment requirements could save

school districts state equalization guarantee (SEG) funds through the reduction of testing costs if districts choose to discontinue administration of those assessments.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED analysis for a related bill, SB 390, states elimination of the requirement to administer short-cycle assessments in ninth and 10th grades is logical and aligns with the department's assessment system, which now requires summative testing of students in these grade levels.

PED notes the addition of “diagnostic” to short-cycle assessments on page 3, line 16 may limit the types of short-cycle assessments that can be used for the high school or college readiness. PED notes short-cycle assessments can be diagnostic, informational, and evaluative. Typically short-cycle assessments that are administered at the beginning of the year are diagnostic, assisting with the placement and identification of students in various support systems. These diagnostic assessments do not provide the evaluative information required to establish demonstration of competency. The HEC amendment removed “diagnostic” from this section and restored original statutory language.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

WNMU analysis notes that reduced opportunity for intervention prior to 11th grade may impact student outcomes by removing the short-cycle assessment requirement for 9th and 10th grades. However, nothing in the bill would prevent school districts from implementing assessments of their own accord.

RELATIONSHIP

HB 15, HB 165, HB 176, HB 308, SB 203, SB 217 and SB 390 all relate to student testing.

SB390 also removes assessment requirements for 9th and 10th grade students.

KC/bb