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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/1/15

SPONSOR McCamley LAST UPDATED 3/18/15 HJM 3/aHEC/aHAFC

SHORT TITLE Standardized Test Contract Fund Reports SB _____

ANALYST Chavez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SJM 9.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED) – for duplicate memorial

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HAFC Amendment

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Amendment to House Joint Memorial 3 removes the HEC amendment and in its place inserts “used to assess students statewide on the common core standards.”

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment to House Joint Memorial 3 adds that the public education department be requested to provide an accounting of funds spent for standardized testing materials “used to access students statewide on the common core state standards.” (See Technical Issues)

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Joint Memorial 3 requests the Public Education Department (PED) provide an accounting of funds spent for standardized testing materials and that the department provide documentation on how the procurement process for standardized testing materials was conducted and prepare a report for the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This memorial does not contain an appropriation. Costs to the PED to carry out the request of the memorial should be able to be carried out within existing resources.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Concerns exist that students are currently over tested; however, little data is available regarding instructional time used for test preparation and time used for tests other than the state standards-based assessment. As a result, HB 2 currently includes the following language that requires each school district and charter school to conduct an audit of their assessment practices by mid-October 2015 as a condition of continued receipt of operational funding:

The secretary of public education shall not distribute a school district's or charter school's state equalization guarantee distribution after the first reporting date, which is October 14, 2015, if, by that date, the school district or charter school has not conducted an assessment of its student assessment practices using a public education department-approved audit tool and submitted the results of the audit to the public education department and the local school board or governing body of the charter school. The public education department shall provide a report of the assessment audit results to the legislative education study committee by December 2015.

PED notes that this memorial focuses on use of standards based assessments for implementation of the common core state standards (CCSS). The PED develops numerous standards based assessments, only a subset of which is aligned to the CCSS, and a smaller number that are required for administration. PED adds the memorial should specify which assessments should be included in the LESC report. **The HAFC amendment specifies that only CCSS assessments should be included in the report.**

PED adds that as the procurement process is set forth in statute and regulation and procurement documents, including requests for proposals (RFPs) and contracts, are public, this information can already be reviewed by LESC.

At PED's December budget hearing, Secretary Skandera testified that the new contract for CCSS, the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), will reduce testing costs from \$7.5 million to \$6 million.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The HEC amendment specifies that the accounting of funds spent for standardized testing materials be for those materials used to “access” students on the common core state standards. However, the term “assess” should be used. **The HAFC amendment replaces the HEC amendment, using the term “assess.”**

KC/bb/je