

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/16

SPONSOR Romero **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** 97

SHORT TITLE Remove Some School Readiness Tests **SB** _____

ANALYST Elkins/Fernandez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	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)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 97 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 also removes language that requires PED to ensure that ninth- and 10th grade assessment results are reported to students, parents and public no later than four weeks following the date the assessments are administered.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill does not contain an appropriation. Elimination of assessment requirements could save school districts and charter schools state equalization guarantee (SEG) funds through the reduction of testing costs if districts choose to discontinue administration of those assessments.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to PED, removing the word “all” from the requirement that all students must take the state required assessments appears to conflict with statute NMSA 22-2C-4.D, which states “All students shall participate in the academic assessment program.”

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

PED notes that eliminating the requirement to administer short-cycle assessments in grades 9 and 10 is logical and aligns with the state’s current assessment system, which now requires summative testing of students in those grade levels. Removal of this requirement would alleviate some testing requirements on the local level.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

On page 2, line 19, PED would like consideration be given to leaving the word “all” rather than striking the word.

CTF/al/jo