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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Maestas Barnes ORIGINAL DATE 2/1/16
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 214

SHORT TITLE National Work-Oriented Assessment System SB _____

ANALYST Klundt

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$35.0	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Workforce Solutions Department (WSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 214 appropriates \$35.0 thousand from the general fund to the Workforce Solutions Department for the purpose of a national reading and mathematics assessment system currently used by WSD to measure the work-oriented skills of job seekers.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$35.0 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2017 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

WSD reported the agency, through the statewide workforce system, currently utilizes a national skills assessment called ACT WorkKeys to measure foundational skills such as reading, mathematics, and locating information. The results can be used by job seekers and employers to make better decisions by assessing skill level requirements for specific jobs and evaluating the skill level or skill gap of individual job seekers.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

WSD states the agency is positioned to administer these funds in order to continue increasing the employability of job seekers by validating their current skills and competencies.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In the 2015 Regular Session, House Bill 308 proposed appropriating \$35 thousand from the general fund to the WSD to implement utilization of this workforce assessment for workforce-bound high school students, who could elect to replace the existing reading and mathematics exit examinations typically required for high school graduation with this workforce assessment. Unlike HB 308, which died in chamber last year, HB 214 would appropriate these funds not specifically for high school students but for all job seekers.

KK/jle