

SB 602 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Frederick

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/12/21
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 3-2-0-0
Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Gelser, Gorsek
Nays: 2 - Robinson, Thomsen
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 4/7, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Repeals sunset on statutory provisions establishing the ability of parents or adult students to opt out of statewide summative assessments and specifying the methods by which parents and adult students may communicate their decision. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Federal assessment requirements
- Impact of COVID-19 on students
- Amount of time spent on assessments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Federal law establishes a requirement that states assess students annually in grades three through eight and once in high school in both mathematics and English language arts, and that states assess students periodically in science and social studies. The U.S. Department of Education allows states to allow students and families to opt out of assessments, but requires a 95 percent participation rate. Senate Bill 602 removes the sunset on provisions in state law that establish the right of parents and adult students to opt out of statewide summative assessments.