

SB 602 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. McLain

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 05/25/21

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Alonso Leon, Hudson, Neron, Owens, Reardon, Ruiz, Smith DB, Sollman, Weber, Wright

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/20, 5/25

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:

- Usefulness of statewide assessments for identifying needs of schools and districts
- Reasons for parents of students to opt out of assessments
- Background on prior legislation
- Relationship with federal Every Student Succeeds Act
- Timeliness of data provided by assessments
- Marginalization of subjects not included in 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.

House Bill 2655 (2015), also known as the Student Assessment Bill of Rights, established requirements that parents and adult students be notified of statewide assessments and provided for parents and adult students to opt out of assessments. The opt-out provision will sunset on July 1, 2021.

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.