



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 8/23/2016

Bill Number

House Bill 16-1234

Sponsors

*Representatives Klingenschmitt
and Singer
Senators Merrifield and Marble*

Short Title

*State Assessment Selection &
Local Flexibility*

Research Analyst

Lisa Gezelter (x3264)

Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which became effective June 10, 2016.

Summary

This bill directs the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to investigate and review the assessment options available to the state, including options that local education providers can select and administer on their own. CDE must consider the resources available to the state, the methods by which local education providers could create and administer their own assessments, the methods by which CDE would determine the quality of any assessments selected by those providers, and the methods used by other states for selecting assessments. CDE is required to report the results of this study to the State Board of Education and the Joint Education Committee at its 2016 State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent Government (SMART) Act hearing. The bill allows use of monies from the State Education Fund for this study.

The bill also directs CDE to apply to the U.S. Department of Education for innovative assessment and accountability demonstration authority as authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act, a federal education law that allows innovative assessment pilot programs for seven states.

Background

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was passed by Congress and signed by President Obama in 2016. ESSA allows for seven states to create innovative, performance-based assessments through a pilot program.

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House Action

House Education Committee (March 7, 2016). At the hearing, representatives of the Colorado Education Association, Colorado Early Colleges, and a parent testified in support of the bill. The committee passed amendment L.001, which added a legislative declaration, tightened the requirements for assessments created by local education providers, and required that alternatives maintain existing state assessment requirements. The committee referred the bill, as amended, to the Appropriations Committee.

House Appropriations Committee (May 3, 2016). The committee adopted amendment L.002, which allowed the use of State Education Fund monies to fund the study conducted by CDE and amendment J.002, which appropriated \$39,600 from the State Education Fund. The committee referred the bill, as amended, to the House Committee of the Whole.

House second reading (May 3, 2016). The House Committee of the Whole adopted the Education and Appropriations Committee reports and passed the bill with no amendments.

House third reading (May 4, 2016). The House passed the bill with no amendments.

Senate Action

Senate Finance Committee (May 5, 2016). The committee passed the bill with no amendments and referred it to the Appropriations Committee.

Senate Appropriations Committee (May 5, 2016). The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the Senate Committee of the Whole.

Senate second reading (May 5, 2016). The Senate Committee of the Whole passed the bill with no amendments.

Senate third reading (May 6, 2016). The Senate passed the bill with no amendments.

Relevant Research

[Issue Brief: Statewide Student Assessments \(2015\)](#)