

SUBJECT: Allowing the SAT or ACT to serve as a secondary exit-level assessment

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Huberty, Allen, Bohac, Deshotel, Gooden, K. King, Koop, Meyer, VanDeaver

0 nays

2 absent — Bernal, Dutton

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 4 — 31-0

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Mark Wiggins, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Drew Scheberle, Austin Chamber of Commerce; Kristi Hassett and Kronda Thimesch, Lewisville ISD; Jesus Chavez, South Texas Association of Schools; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Grover Campbell, Texas Association of School Boards; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Jamaica Chapple)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Grace Chimene, League of Women Voters of Texas; Dee Carney, Texas School Alliance; Portia Bosse, Texas State Teachers Association)

On — Theresa Trevino, TAMSA; Von Byer, Texas Education Agency; David Hinojosa, TLEC; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Kim Cook, TAMSA; Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency)

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the 80th Legislature enacted SB 1031 by Shapiro, which required the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) to be replaced in grades 9 through 12 with a series of end-of-course assessments, beginning with the students entering grade 9 in the 2011-12 school year.

A certain number of older students who have not met the exit-level assessment requirements to receive a high school diploma are still held to

TAKS graduation standards, rather than end-of-course assessment standards.

DIGEST: SB 1005 would require students who repeated grade 9 in the 2011-12 school year, as well as those who entered grade 10 or higher that year, to take the exit-level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). This would apply only to students still seeking to meet the exit-level assessment requirements for a high school diploma.

The bill also would allow students to whom the bill applies to meet the exit-level assessment requirement by demonstrating satisfactory performance on either the SAT or ACT at a level equivalent to satisfactory exit-level TAKS performance. The Commissioner of Education would be required to establish satisfactory performance levels for the SAT and ACT equivalent in rigor to the level required for satisfactory performance on the TAKS. The commissioner would not be required to administer TAKS after September 1, 2017.

The bill would take effect immediately if final passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.

NOTES: In its fiscal note, the Legislative Budget Board estimates SB 1005 would have a positive impact of \$4 million to the Foundation School Fund through fiscal 2018-19 due to savings involved with the elimination of TAKS.