

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## 2SHB 2327

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### As Passed House:

March 12, 2007

**Title:** An act relating to a system of standards, instruction, and assessments for mathematics and science.

**Brief Description:** Regarding a system of standards, instruction, and assessments for mathematics and science.

**Sponsors:** By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives P. Sullivan, Priest, Haler, Quall, Jarrett, Wallace, Kenney, McDermott, Sells, Santos, Wood and Ormsby).

### Brief History:

#### Committee Activity:

Education: 2/27/07 [DPS];

Appropriations: 3/9/07, 3/10/07 [DP2S(w/o sub ED)].

#### Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/12/07, 83-15.

### Brief Summary of Second Substitute Bill

- Allows students in the classes of 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 to graduate under certain conditions without a Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) as a result of not passing the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in mathematics.
- Delays the requirement that students must pass the science WASL to 2014.
- Directs the State Board of Education to adopt end-of-course assessments in Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology, which become the new high school WASL for mathematics and science.
- Establishes the classes of students who will be the first classes required to pass the new assessments for graduation purposes: class of 2013 for Algebra I; class of 2014 for both Algebra I and Geometry; and class of 2014 for Biology.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide funds for school districts to administer diagnostic assessments.

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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Quall, Chair; Barlow, Vice Chair; Priest, Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Haigh, McDermott, Roach, Santos and P. Sullivan.

**Staff:** Barbara McLain (786-7383).

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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**Majority Report:** The second substitute bill be substituted therefor and the second substitute bill do pass and do not pass the substitute bill by Committee on Education. Signed by 22 members: Representatives Sommers, Chair; Dunshee, Vice Chair; Haler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Ericks, Grant, Hunt, Kagi, Kenney, McDermott, McDonald, McIntire, Morrell, Pettigrew, Priest, Schual-Berke, Seaquist, P. Sullivan and Walsh.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Alexander, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Dunn, Haigh, Hunter and Kessler.

**Staff:** Ben Rarick (786-7349).

### **Background:**

Under Washington's academic achievement system, the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) is responsible for developing a statewide academic assessment system for reading, writing, mathematics, and science, which includes the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). The State Board of Education (SBE) has responsibility for a statewide accountability system for student performance.

Beginning with the class of 2008, most students will be required to meet the state standard on the 10th grade WASL in reading, writing, and mathematics to receive a Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA). A CAA will be required for high school graduation. Students in special education who are not appropriately assessed using the WASL can earn a Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA), which is also required for graduation in 2008. Beginning in 2010, students will also have to pass the science WASL for a CAA. As currently constructed, the WASL is a comprehensive, standards-based test specially designed to measure student achievement of the Essential Academic Learning Requirements. It includes multiple choice and constructed response questions. There is evidence that the WASL is not well-suited as a diagnostic assessment.

There are 24 states in addition to Washington that plan to or currently require students to pass statewide assessments for high school graduation. Seven of these states use a series of "end-of-course" assessments, where students take the test after completing a course that covers the core content to be assessed by the test. In most of these states, the mathematics end-of-course assessment for high school graduation is Algebra. End-of-course assessments in science tend to be Biology.

### **Summary of Second Substitute Bill:**

WASL and High School Graduation. Students in the graduating classes of 2008, through 2012 may graduate from high school without a CAA or CIA if they meet all of the following criteria:

- they have not met the state standard in mathematics on the WASL, an approved alternative assessment, or an alternative for eligible special education students;
- they have met the state standard in the other required content areas;
- they have met all other state and school district graduation requirements; and
- they successfully earn two additional high school mathematics credit after their sophomore year, designed to increase their proficiency on the WASL. This requirement is one additional credit after their junior year for students in the class of 2008.

The requirement that students must also pass the science WASL to earn a CAA is delayed from 2010 to the class of 2014.

Mathematics and Science High School WASL. The SBE must select statewide end-of-course assessments for mathematics and science, which become the new high school WASL in those subjects. The mathematics assessments cover Algebra I and Geometry and are implemented on an optional basis in the 2008-09 school year with statewide implementation in 2009-10. The science assessment covers Biology and is implemented on an optional basis in 2009-10 and statewide in 2010-11. The assessments must be multiple choice and able to be administered online.

The Legislature's intent is that students receive instruction through credited high school mathematics and science courses and are assessed after they complete the course. School districts are responsible for designing and implementing the courses, and course content instruction can be integrated.

For the class of 2013, the Algebra assessment is the mathematics WASL required for purposes of the CAA and high school graduation. For the class of 2014, both the Algebra assessment and Geometry assessment are the mathematics WASL for CAA purposes. For the class of 2014 the Biology assessment is the science WASL for the CAA. The SPI and the SBE make annual status reports to the Legislature each December until 2009 on the implementation of these changes. By January 5, 2009, the SBE must submit a finding and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding whether the timelines for implementing end-of-course assessments can be feasibly met. The SBE considers the validity and reliability of the

assessments, adequate notice to graduating classes, and other possible factors supported by clear and convincing evidence.

Diagnostic Assessments. The SPI must make diagnostic assessments available in elementary and middle school in reading, writing, science and math and must provide funds for districts to administer diagnostic assessments.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed. However, sections 2 through 4 (graduation provisions for the classes of 2008 through 2010) are null and void without funding for section 4 in the operating budget; sections 5, 6, and 8 (end-of-course assessments) are null and void without funding for section 6 in the operating budget; and section 7 (diagnostic assessments) is null and void without funding in the operating budget.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** (Education) None.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** (Appropriations)

(In support) A petition to urge the Legislature to improve math standards and assessment has been signed by 15,000 citizens. This is a good start and will produce an important review of our standards. The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) is an inappropriate test. The end-of-course assessments will be valuable in making curriculum decisions for school districts. The Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) should align to whatever assessment is chosen. Also, it doesn't seem like the fiscal note was an "apples to apples" comparison with the savings of discontinuing the WASL.

Improving mathematics and science achievement is our second highest priority. Currently, 50 percent of 10th graders can't pass the WASL and for disadvantaged students, it is much worse. Currently 30-50 percent of graduates need college remediation. This contributes to closing the door on future career job opportunities and jeopardizes our economy in the form of lost wages.

(With concerns) There are other bills that deal with this issue. We need to deal with the fiscal issues. Our association is in support of strong, high standards for math and science, but it is important to fully fund whatever policy changes you implement.

**Persons Testifying:** (Education) None.

**Persons Testifying:** (Appropriations) (In support) Representative P. Sullivan, prime sponsor; Julie Wright, Washington State Parent and Teacher Association; and David Christensen, Where's the Math.

(With concerns) Lucinda Young, Washington Education Association; and Barbara Mertens, Washington Association of School Administrators.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** (Education) None.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** (Appropriations) None.