

**ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION -
2008**

REVISED COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB1157

Hearing Date: February 26, 2008

Committee On: Education

Introducer(s): (Raikes)

Title: Change provisions relating to the statewide system for assessment and reporting of student learning

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Placed on General File with Amendments

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Adams, Ashford, Avery, Burling, Howard, Johnson, Raikes
0	No	
0	Absent	
1	Present, not voting	Senators Kopplin

Proponents:

Senator Ron Raikes
Andrew Rikli
Fred Meyer
Terry Cossel

Representing:

Introducer
Westside Community Schools
State Board of Education
Self

Opponents:

Jay Sears

Representing:

Nebraska State Education Association

Neutral:

Mary Schlieder

Doug Christensen

Representing:

Self

Nebraska Department of Education

Summary of purpose and/or change:

Legislative Bill 1157 would amend Section 79-760.03 which establishes a statewide system for the assessment of student learning.

Subsection (2) would be amended to state that the grade levels for assessment and reporting would include grades three through eight and one grade in high school. It would also be amended to include a purpose statement that the system would “comply with federal assessment and accountability requirements.

Subsections (4) and (5) would be amended to specify the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council rather than a majority of the E.S.U. administrators for the approval of assessment instruments in reading and mathematics.

Subsection (6) would be amended to strike a requirement that E.S.U.s be required to conduct a peer review of local district assessments annually. It would also be amended to allow districts to exclude reading and mathematics from the assessment portfolio after the implementation of statewide assessment instruments required by subsections (4) and (5).

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The Committee amendment would strike the original sections of LB 1157 and would insert the following.

Section 79-758 would be amended to strike a reference to “locally” adopted standards in the definition of “assessment” and to strike the definition for “assessment portfolio”.

Section 79-760.01 would be amended to strike a reference to “three grade levels” and insert a reference the grade levels required for statewide assessment pursuant to the act.

Section 79-760.02 would be amended to strike the requirement that the State Department of Education adopt and promulgate rules regarding the development of local standards.

Section 79-760.03 which deals with the statewide assessment plan and assessment instruments would be amended in the following subsections

Subsection (2) would be amended to require that the plan for the statewide assessment and reporting system would be required to be reported to the Governor, the chairperson of the

Education Committee and the Clerk of the legislature. The state board would select grade levels for assessment and reporting according to the to assessment instruments

Subsection (3) would be a new subsection which would require the Governor to appoint a technical advisory committee of three to five nationally recognized experts in assessment. The committee would advise the Governor, the Legislature, the state board, and the State Department of Education on the development of statewide assessment instruments and the statewide assessment plan.

Subsection (5) would require a statewide assessment of reading for school year 2009-10 and each year thereafter and require assessment instruments in grades 3 through 8 and one grade in high school.

Subsection (6) would require a statewide assessment of mathematics for school year 2010-11 and each year thereafter and require assessment instruments in grades 3 through 8 and one grade in high school.

Subsection (7) would require a statewide assessment of science for school year 2011-12 and each year thereafter. Assessment instruments would be required for grade levels including at least one grade in elementary, one grade in middle school or junior high, and one grade in high school.

Subsection (9) would strike a reference to assessment portfolios and would require that school districts report individual student data for scores and sub-scores on national assessment instruments according to procedures established by the state board and the department.

Subsection (12) would allow the state board to select additional grade levels and additional subject areas for statewide assessment to comply with federal requirements.

Subsection (13) would prohibit the state board from requiring school districts to administer assessments or assessment instruments other than as prescribed by the act.

Section 79-760.05 which describes the statewide system for tracking individual student achievement would be amended to strike references to local assessment instruments and would reference the assessment instruments required by the act.

Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson