

SENATE BILL NO. 110—SENATOR BEERS

FEBRUARY 19, 2007

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN GANSERT, BEERS, DENIS,
GOEDHART, SETTELMAYER AND STEWART

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the administration of examinations to pupils enrolled in the public schools. (BDR 34-474)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets **[omitted material]** is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; revising provisions governing the administration of tests, examinations and assessments by the boards of trustees of school districts; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the administration of the following examinations to pupils enrolled in the public schools: (1) examinations that are administered to a national reference group of pupils in grades 4, 7 and 10 (norm-referenced tests or NRTs); (2) examinations that assess the progress of pupils on the state standards of content and performance in grades 3 through 8 (criterion-referenced tests or CRTs); (3) the high school proficiency examination which pupils must pass to receive a standard high school diploma; and (4) examinations of the National Assessment of Educational Progress. (NRS 389.012, 389.015, 389.550) With the exception of the NRTs, the administration of these examinations is required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6301 et seq.

Section 1 of this bill authorizes the board of trustees of each school district to require the administration of additional district-wide tests, examinations and assessments that the board of trustees determines are vital to measuring pupil achievement and progress.

Section 2 of this bill requires the Boards of Trustees of the Clark County and Washoe County School Districts to submit reports to the Legislative Committee on Education concerning the testing of pupils within their respective districts.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 389 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. In addition to any other test, examination or assessment required by state or federal law, the board of trustees of each school district may require the administration of district-wide tests, examinations and assessments that the board of trustees determines are vital to measure the achievement and progress of pupils.

2. The tests, examinations and assessments required pursuant to subsection 1 must be limited to those which can be demonstrated to provide a direct benefit to pupils or which are used by teachers to improve instruction and the achievement of pupils.

3. The board of trustees of each school district and the State Board shall periodically review the tests, examinations and assessments administered to pupils to ensure that the time taken from instruction to conduct a test, examination or assessment is warranted because it is still accomplishing its original purpose.

Sec. 2. 1. The Boards of Trustees of the Clark County School District and the Washoe County School District shall prepare and submit to the Legislative Committee on Education on or before July 1, 2008, reports concerning testing of pupils within their respective school districts.

2. The reports required pursuant to subsection 1 must include:

(a) The number of hours pupils in the district spend in testing;

(b) The best practices adopted by the district with respect to using testing time efficiently in comparison with using the time for instruction; and

(c) Any recommendations for legislative changes or changes in practices with respect to the testing of pupils.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

