



Jim Kelly

Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 382

123rd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Coughlin, Damschroder, Hood, Jones, Schuler, Taylor

BILL SUMMARY

- Eliminates the state's twelfth grade proficiency tests.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Elimination of the twelfth grade tests

(secs. 3301.0710(A)(3) and (C)(3) and 3301.0711(B)(4))

The bill eliminates the state's five twelfth grade proficiency tests, leaving the fourth, sixth, and ninth (soon to be tenth) grade proficiency tests intact. Under current law, all public schools (including community schools) must give the twelfth grade tests to all high school seniors who have passed all of the ninth grade proficiency tests. Chartered nonpublic schools have the option of administering the twelfth grade tests, but are not required to. Students need not pass the twelfth grade tests to receive a high school diploma, as they must the ninth grade tests, although passing the twelfth grade tests is one possible condition toward earning an honors diploma.¹ Moreover, students who pass all five of the twelfth grade tests and enroll in an Ohio college or university are eligible for a one-time \$500 cash scholarship, payable directly to the student.

As with the proficiency tests administered to fourth, sixth, and ninth graders, the twelfth grade tests are given in the areas of reading, writing, math, science, and citizenship.

\$500 scholarships must be paid in FY 2000

(sec. 3365.15, repealed by Section 2; Section 3)

¹ *Ohio Administrative Code § 3301-13-07(G)(1)(h) and (2)(h). As an alternative to passing the twelfth grade tests, a candidate for an honors diploma may substitute a score of 27 on the ACT test or an equivalent score on the SAT test.*

To conform with the elimination of the twelfth grade tests, the bill also abolishes the \$500 scholarship paid to students who pass all five twelfth grade tests and attend an Ohio college or university. But it stipulates that the Board of Regents must use money appropriated for the scholarships in FY 2000 to pay students who passed all five twelfth grade tests in the 1998-1999 school year, attend an Ohio college or university, and met the application requirements for the scholarship. The General Assembly has appropriated, through the biennial education budget act (Am. Sub. H.B. 282), \$17.5 million in general revenue funds in each of FY 2000 and FY 2001 to pay these scholarships. The bill does not affect the FY 2001 scholarship appropriation, but if it takes effect before then, the appropriation could not be spent.

Elimination of twelfth grade tests as performance indicator

(sec. 3302.02)

Performance on the twelfth grade proficiency tests comprises five of the 27 state standards with which school districts are designated as "effective" or "in need of continuous improvement" or "under an academic watch" or "in a state of academic emergency." To meet the five twelfth grade standards, 60% of a district's students taking the reading, writing, math, citizenship, and science tests must pass each test. The bill eliminates the first four of these five twelfth grade standards, which are specified in statute. The fifth test standard, for science, is prescribed in the State Board of Education's administrative rule, but the bill's elimination of the tests would presumably nullify it, as well.² This leaves 22 standards. To be considered an effective school district, a district would have to meet 21 (at least 94%) of those.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced H0382-I.123/rss	06-09-99	p. 802

² O.A.C. § 3301-50-01(C).