



John Rau

## *Bill Analysis*

*Legislative Service Commission*

### **H.B. 484**

124th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Reidelbach, Fessler, Roman, Calvert, Seitz, Schmidt, Callender, Jerse, Brinkman, Aslanides, Faber, Schaffer, Young, Seaver**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Provides that the science curriculum standards due to be adopted by the State Board of Education prior to December 31, 2002 must be approved by concurrent resolution adopted by both houses of the General Assembly before they can take effect.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

Under continuing law, the State Board of Education is required to develop and adopt academic standards and model curricula for grades kindergarten through twelve in each of the five core subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. At least 45 days prior to the date any standards or model curricula are adopted, the Superintendent of Public Instruction must present the relevant standards or curricula to a joint meeting of the House of Representatives and Senate Education Committees. In addition, the Board must develop achievement tests in those subject areas to be given to students in specified grade levels to measure student progress toward attaining the expected standards of performance. The achievement tests must be aligned with the standards and model curricula. Although school districts and community schools are not required to use any model curriculum, they must administer the specified tests, including the tenth grade tests required for graduation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3301.079, not in the bill. The achievement tests are prescribed in R.C. 3301.0710 and 3301.0711, neither section in the bill. School districts and community schools are required to administer the specified achievement tests and the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT), which is a battery of tenth grade achievement tests in the five core subject areas required for graduation from high school. Chartered nonpublic schools are also required to administer the OGT.

Continuing law provides that the State Board must adopt the science standards by December 31, 2002.<sup>2</sup> The bill provides that before the science standards may be effective they must first be approved by both houses of the General Assembly through adoption of a concurrent resolution. The bill also provides that before either house votes on such a concurrent resolution, its standing committee on education must conduct at least one public hearing on the standards.<sup>3</sup> Finally, the bill specifies that the joint meeting of the two committees to hear the presentation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction relative to those standards, prescribed in current law, will satisfy the hearing requirement of the bill so long as that hearing includes an opportunity for testimony from the general public and interested parties.<sup>4</sup>

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## COMMENT

The bill is silent concerning the effect on the tenth grade science graduation achievement test if the new science standards are not approved in time for the 2004 administration required by current law.

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## HISTORY

| ACTION     | DATE     | JOURNAL ENTRY |
|------------|----------|---------------|
| Introduced | 01-24-02 | p. 1300       |

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<sup>2</sup> *Reading, writing, and mathematics standards were due and adopted by the Board prior to December 31, 2001. In addition, to the science standards, the Board also must adopt the social studies standards prior to December 31, 2002.*

<sup>3</sup> *Continuing law imposes a similar provision regarding any health or physical education standards and curricula that the State Board proposes for adoption; however, the law does not require that the Board ever adopt any such standards and curricula. See R.C. 3301.0718, not in the bill.*

<sup>4</sup> *Continuing law requires that the Board adopt a model science curriculum 18 months after the science standards are adopted. Based on these standards and curricula, the OGT in science is to be administered for the first time in 2004, the fifth grade science achievement test in 2005, and the eighth grade science achievement test in 2006. R.C. 3301.0712(A), not in the bill.*