

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/13/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/09, 04/06, 04/10, 04/13

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Gallegos, Hayden, Johnson, McKeown, Nearman, Read, Reardon, Whisnant, Williamson

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and State Board of Education (SBE) to oversee work group on community college placement to include consideration of use of statewide summative assessment.

Requires preliminary report to Legislative Assembly no later than February 1, 2016 and final report no later than September 15, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Placement tests for students entering community college
- Accuracy of tests currently in use
- Impact on persistence and completion of students incorrectly placed in remedial courses
- Desirability of using Smarter Balanced assessments for community college placement to indicate readiness for college coursework while students are still in high school

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Community colleges routinely test prospective students who wish to enroll in courses with reading, writing or math prerequisites. Some studies have indicated that the tests used for such purposes are not a reliable indicator of student readiness.

House Bill 2681-A requires the HECC and the SBE to oversee a work group jointly convened to address this issue. The work group is to include in its deliberations the possibility of using a statewide summative assessment for students entering community college directly from high school.