

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 439 – HB 1089

March 31, 2015

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires parents to have access to test questions and their student's responses on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests, end-of-course exams (EOC), or other state-required standardized assessments within 30 days of the last test administration. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to provide a parent, upon the parent's request, a username and password that will authorize the parent to view the parent's children's test, answers, or a paper copy of the test and the student's answers. Any electronic access that is provided shall be on a secure website on servers maintained by the state or a state contracted vendor. Requires teachers to have access to a test administered to a student and the student's answers to assist the teacher in determining the student's mastery of state standards. Limits a teacher's access to tests and answers for students that the teacher is currently teaching in the tested subjects.

Requires a local education agency (LEA) to notify parents on how they can view the test questions and their students' answers during the annual notification of parents on tests that shall be administered during the academic year. Information relative to test viewing shall also be included in each LEA's student handbook or other policy guidebook.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures - \$19,171,122/FY15-16

Exceeds \$19,171,122/FY16-17 and Subsequent Years

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (005531): Deletes all language of the original bill. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to provide local education agencies (LEAs) with access to students' Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests, end-of-course assessments, and students' answers to all such tests. Requires LEAs to provide the tests and student's answers to parents upon request. Release of this information shall begin in the 2016-2017 academic year. Items that are required to validate future tests by the administration; items that are being field tested for future tests; and any passages or other content that would violate copyright law are prohibited from being released. Requires a teacher to have access to the teacher's student information relative to standardized tests and answers. Requires release of assessment information to comply with the Tennessee Data Accessibility, Transparency and Accountability Act. Requires a local education agency (LEA) to notify parents on how they can view the test questions and their students' answers during the annual notification of parents on tests that shall be administered during the academic year. Information relative to test viewing shall also be included in each LEA's student handbook or other policy guidebook.

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FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$1,375,000/FY16-17

Exceeds \$1,375,000/FY17-18 and Subsequent Years

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Test items that are used for test validation, field testing, that cannot be released due to copyright infringement will not be given to LEAs and parents.
- The Department of Education will develop separate test booklets with excluded items redacted and expanded student reports that includes student responses.
- Based on information from DOE, the increase in state expenditures to develop the redacted test booklets is estimated to be \$850,000.
- Based on information from DOE, the generation of expanded student response reports for each student is estimated to increase state expenditures \$525,000.
- The increase in state expenditures in FY16-17 is estimated to be \$1,375,000 (\$850,000 + \$525,000).
- The increase in state expenditures in FY17-18 and subsequent years is estimated to exceed \$1,375,000.
- The DOE will provide redacted test items and expanded test reports to LEAs electronically.
- LEAs will provide copies of redacted test booklets and reports, upon request, to parents without an increase in personnel or other budget items. Such information may be sent or made available to parents electronically.
- The state will not be required to develop entirely new tests and answer booklets annually.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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