

SENATE, No. 558

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator NIA H. GILL

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Corrado, Diegnan and Gopal

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits designation of certain assessments as high school graduation requirement during transitional period to new Statewide assessment system.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/8/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning high school graduation proficiency tests and
2 supplementing P.L.1979, c.241 (C.18A:7C-1 et seq.).

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of P.L.1979, c.241
8 (C.18A:7C-1 et seq.) or any other section of law to the contrary,
9 during the 2015-2016 through 2019-2020 school years, a student
10 who has satisfied all other State and local requirements for high
11 school graduation shall not be denied a State-endorsed diploma
12 solely on the basis of the Statewide assessment requirement. The
13 commissioner shall continue to designate appropriate tests for use
14 as federal and State accountability measures, including meeting the
15 requirements of the “Every Student Succeeds Act,” Pub.L.114-95,
16 provided that individual student scores on such tests shall not be
17 used to determine eligibility for high school graduation.

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19 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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22 STATEMENT

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24 Under current law, a State graduation proficiency test must be
25 administered to all 11th grade students, and to any 11th and 12th
26 grade students who have not yet demonstrated proficiency on the
27 test. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, the Department of
28 Education replaced the State-developed graduation proficiency
29 tests, the High School Proficiency Assessment and the Alternative
30 High School Assessment, with tests developed by the consortium of
31 states known as the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for
32 College and Careers (PARCC). The State Board of Education has
33 proposed making passage of PARCC’s English Language Arts
34 grade 10 and Algebra I end-of-course exams as the Statewide
35 assessment graduation requirement beginning with the class of
36 2021.

37 This bill stipulates that during the 2015-2016 through 2019-2020
38 school years, the transition period to the new Statewide assessment
39 system, the department may not use standardized test scores to
40 determine a student’s eligibility for high school graduation. The
41 commissioner may continue to designate appropriate tests to be
42 administered to meet federal and State accountability measures,
43 including meeting the requirements of the “Every Student Succeeds
44 Act,” Pub.L.114-95, but the results may not be used to make
45 graduation determinations for individual students.