

ASSEMBLY, No. 151

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman CRUZ-PEREZ and Assemblyman DORIA

1 AN ACT establishing a State-administered fourth grade test in the
2 public schools and supplementing chapter 7A of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall develop and administer
9 to all fourth grade pupils in the school year which begins in September
10 1997, and annually thereafter, a test to assess progress toward mastery
11 of State proficiency standards. The test shall provide direction to
12 school districts for the design of the most appropriate instructional
13 program for elementary school pupils.

14 b. In the development of the test, the commissioner shall consult
15 with educators, parents, community representatives, members of
16 minority groups, and other persons who have expertise in cognitive
17 development and the academic environment of elementary school
18 pupils.

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20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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25 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop and
26 administer to all fourth grade pupils in the school year which begins in
27 September 1997, and annually thereafter, a test to assess progress
28 toward mastery of State proficiency standards. At the present time,
29 the State has no way of measuring a pupil's reading, writing, and math
30 skills until the eighth grade warning test. The fourth grade test will
31 identify problems and provide direction to school districts for the
32 design of the most appropriate instructional program for elementary
33 school pupils at the grade levels where intervention is more likely to
34 be effective. In developing the test, the commissioner is directed to
35 consult with educators, parents, community representatives, members

1 of minority groups, and other persons who have expertise in cognitive
2 development and the academic environment of elementary school
3 pupils.

4 Under the current statutes, the State administers tests in the eighth
5 and eleventh grades.

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10 Establishes a State-administered fourth grade test in the public
11 schools.