

SENATE, No. 127

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Senators KYRILLOS and PALAIA

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.

4

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

7

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.

19 c. Upon implementation of the State-administered fourth grade  
20 test, a school district shall not be required to administer proficiency  
21 tests in grades two through six.

22

23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

24

25

26

STATEMENT

27

28 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop and  
29 administer to all fourth grade pupils in the school year which begins in  
30 September 1997, and annually thereafter, a test to assess progress  
31 toward mastery of State proficiency standards. At the present time,  
32 the State has no way of measuring a pupil's reading, writing, and math  
33 skills until the eighth grade warning test. The fourth grade test will  
34 identify problems and provide direction to school districts for the  
35 design of the most appropriate instructional program for elementary

1 school pupils at the grade levels where intervention is more likely to  
2 be effective. In developing the test, the Commissioner is directed to  
3 consult with educators, parents, community representatives, members  
4 of minority groups, and other persons who have expertise in cognitive  
5 development and the academic environment of elementary school  
6 pupils. The bill also provides that upon implementation of the fourth  
7 grade test, local school districts will not be required to administer  
8 proficiency tests in grades two through six, and the elimination of that  
9 requirement should result in a savings to the districts of approximately  
10 \$10 million annually.

11 Under the current statutes, the State administers tests in the eighth  
12 and eleventh grades.

13

14

15

16

17 Establishes a State-administered fourth grade test in the public  
18 schools.