

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** HB 379 CS  
**SPONSOR(S):** Peterman  
**TIED BILLS:**

Student Assessment Instruments  
**IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 160

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REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) PreK-12 Committee	7 Y, 0 N, w/CS	Howlette	Mizereck
2) Civil Justice Committee			
3) Education Appropriations Committee			
4) Education Council			
5)			

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### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Parents currently receive a report of their students' performance on the FCAT that breaks down their performance in general content categories. However, actual test questions and scored responses are not available for parental review largely due to the cost of developing new test items.

The bill requires the Department of Education to conduct a study of the feasibility and costs associated with parent and student review of individual FCAT questions and answers.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

The bill does not appear to implicate any of the House principles.

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

##### **Disclosure of FCAT Questions**

Parents currently receive a report of their students' performance on the FCAT that breaks down their performance in general content categories.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the Department of Education (DOE) has created publications and resources that include a few released items from previous tests and sample FCAT questions.<sup>2</sup> However, actual test questions and scored responses are not available for parental review largely due to the cost of developing new test items.

According to DOE, the FCAT relies on a combination of test bank and anchor questions to create several versions of the test year. Permitting review may eliminate the ability to reuse questions. The bill requires DOE to conduct a study of the feasibility and costs associated with parent and student review of individual FCAT answers and associated questions. Results of the study must be reported to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 2006.

#### C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

**Section 1:** Creates an unnumbered section of law to require the Department of Education to conduct a study associated with parent and student review of individual FCAT results and to require a report.

**Section 2:** Provides an effective date of July 1, 2005.

### II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

#### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

##### 1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government revenues.

##### 2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government expenditures.

#### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

##### 1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government revenues.

##### 2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government expenditures.

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<sup>1</sup> For a sample of the parent report, see <http://fcap.fldoe.org/pdf/parentinfo.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> For an example, see *Understanding FCAT Scores 2004*. Available at [http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/pdf/fc\\_ufr2004.pdf](http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/pdf/fc_ufr2004.pdf) or FCAT Released Items from 2001 available at <http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatit01.htm>

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

**III. COMMENTS**

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require a city or county to spend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES**

This analysis is drawn to the Committee Substitute that was adopted at the April 12, 2005, meeting of the PreK-12 Committee. The Committee Substitute differs from the bill as filed in that the Committee Substitute:

- Removes the provisions allowing certain students and parents to review individual student FCAT questions and answers and establishing procedures for the review.
- Deletes the requirement that the SAT and ACT be approved for use as an alternate assessment for the grade 10 FCAT for certain transfer students.
- Deletes the provision that repealed s. 1008.301, F.S., relating to FCAT equivalency and a concordance study by the State Board of Education.