

By Senator Wilson

33-14-06

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2            An act relating to the student assessment  
3            program for public schools; amending s.  
4            1008.22, F.S.; requiring the Commissioner of  
5            Education to approve the continuing use of  
6            scores on specified tests as alternatives to  
7            scores on the grade-10 Florida Comprehensive  
8            Assessment Test (FCAT) for students who have  
9            failed the FCAT as specified; requiring the  
10           State Board of Education to annually determine  
11           scores on the SAT and ACT tests which are  
12           equivalent to FCAT scores; repealing s.  
13           1008.301, F.S., relating to a concordance study  
14           of FCAT equivalency; reenacting ss.  
15           1003.429(6)(a) and 1003.43(5)(a), F.S.,  
16           relating to accelerated high school graduation  
17           and general requirements for high school  
18           graduation, to incorporate the amendments to s.  
19           1008.22, F.S., in reference thereto; providing  
20           an effective date.

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22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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24           Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 1008.22, Florida  
25 Statutes, is amended to read:

26           1008.22 Student assessment program for public  
27 schools.--

28           (9) EQUIVALENCIES FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS.--

29           (a)1. The Commissioner of Education shall approve the  
30 use of the SAT and ACT tests as alternative assessments to the  
31 grade 10 FCAT ~~for the 2003-2004 school year~~. Students who

1 attain scores on the SAT or ACT which equate to the passing  
2 scores on the grade 10 FCAT for purposes of high school  
3 graduation shall satisfy the assessment requirement for a  
4 standard high school diploma as provided in s. 1003.429(6)(a)  
5 or s. 1003.43(5)(a) ~~for the 2003-2004 school year~~ if the  
6 students meet the requirement in paragraph (b).

7 2. Annually, the State Board of Education shall  
8 determine which scores on the SAT and the ACT tests are  
9 equivalent to those required on the FCAT for high school  
10 graduation.

11 (b) A student shall be required to take the grade 10  
12 FCAT a total of three times without earning a passing score in  
13 order to use the scores on an alternative assessment pursuant  
14 to paragraph (a). This requirement shall not apply to a  
15 student who is a new student to the public school system in  
16 grade 12.

17 Section 2. Section 1008.301, Florida Statutes, is  
18 repealed.

19 Section 3. For the purpose of incorporating the  
20 amendments made by this act to section 1008.22, Florida  
21 Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection  
22 (6) of section 1003.429, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to  
23 read:

24 1003.429 Accelerated high school graduation options.--

25 (6) Students pursuing accelerated 3-year high school  
26 graduation options pursuant to paragraph (1)(b) or paragraph  
27 (1)(c) are required to:

28 (a) Earn passing scores on the FCAT as defined in s.  
29 1008.22(3)(c) or scores on a standardized test that are  
30 concordant with passing scores on the FCAT as defined in s.  
31 1008.22(9).

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2 Weighted grades referred to in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d)  
3 shall be applied to those courses specifically listed or  
4 identified by the department as rigorous pursuant to s.  
5 1009.531(3) or weighted by the district school board for class  
6 ranking purposes.

7 Section 4. For the purpose of incorporating the  
8 amendments made by this act to section 1008.22, Florida  
9 Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection  
10 (5) of section 1003.43, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to  
11 read:

12 1003.43 General requirements for high school  
13 graduation.--

14 (5) Each district school board shall establish  
15 standards for graduation from its schools, and these standards  
16 must include:

17 (a) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in  
18 s. 1008.22(3)(c), or scores on a standardized test that are  
19 concordant with passing scores on the FCAT as defined in s.  
20 1008.22(9).

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22 The standards required in this subsection, and any subsequent  
23 modifications, shall be reprinted in the Florida  
24 Administrative Code even though not defined as "rules."

25 Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
26 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Requires the Commissioner of Education to approve the use of scores on the SAT or the ACT tests as alternatives to scores on the grade-10 FCAT, not only for the 2003-2004 school year, but also thereafter, for students who have failed the grade-10 FCAT three times. Requires the State Board of Education to determine annually which scores on the alternative tests are equivalent to those on the FCAT.