

By Senator Bullard

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to student assessment in the public
3 schools; terminating the administration of the Florida
4 Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) to students in
5 grades 9 through 12; requiring the Preliminary
6 SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
7 (PSAT/NMSQT) to replace the grade 10 FCAT for purposes
8 of measuring a student's knowledge and skills;
9 requiring students to take the PSAT/NMSQT in grade 10;
10 requiring students to earn passing scores on the
11 PSAT/NMSQT to qualify for a standard high school
12 diploma; requiring the State Board of Education to
13 designate passing scores; requiring use of student
14 performance on the PSAT/NMSQT for school grading
15 purposes; providing for application beginning with
16 students entering grade 9 in the 2011-2012 school
17 year; providing an effective date.

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

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21 Section 1. Notwithstanding ss. 1003.428, 1003.429, 1003.43,
22 and 1008.22, Florida Statutes, and any other provision of law to
23 the contrary, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
24 shall not be administered to students in grades 9 through 12.
25 The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
26 (PSAT/NMSQT) shall replace the grade 10 FCAT for purposes of
27 measuring a student's knowledge and skills in reading,
28 mathematics, and writing. The PSAT/NMSQT shall be taken by
29 students in grade 10 to provide teachers and students with

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30 feedback on a student's strengths and weaknesses and shall be
31 used as practice and preparation for the SAT Reasoning Test
32 (SAT) for students who will take the SAT as part of the college
33 admission process. Students must earn a passing score on the
34 PSAT/NMSQT in reading, mathematics, and writing to qualify for a
35 standard high school diploma. The State Board of Education shall
36 designate a passing score for each section of the PSAT/NMSQT
37 that is aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards
38 and demonstrates the proficiency level required for high school
39 graduation. If a required passing score is raised by the State
40 Board of Education, the passing score shall apply only to
41 students taking the PSAT/NMSQT for the first time after such
42 designation. For purposes of the public school grading system
43 under ss. 1008.34 and 1008.341, Florida Statutes, student
44 performance on the PSAT/NMSQT shall be used in place of student
45 performance on the FCAT, as applicable. The provisions of this
46 section shall apply to public school students entering grade 9
47 in the 2011-2012 school year and thereafter.

48 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.