

By Senator Bullard

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to student assessment in public
3 schools; terminating the administration of the Florida
4 Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) to students in
5 grades 9 through 12; requiring that the Preliminary
6 SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
7 (PSAT/NMSQT) replace the grade 10 FCAT for purposes of
8 measuring a student's knowledge and skills; requiring
9 that students take the PSAT/NMSQT in grade 10;
10 requiring that students earn passing scores on the
11 PSAT/NMSQT to qualify for a standard high school
12 diploma; requiring that the State Board of Education
13 designate passing scores; requiring the 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 2012-2013 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 in order to
35 qualify for a standard high school diploma. The State Board of
36 Education shall designate a passing score for each section of
37 the PSAT/NMSQT which is aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine
38 State Standards and demonstrates the proficiency level required
39 for high school graduation. If a required passing score is
40 raised by the State Board of Education, the passing score shall
41 apply only to students taking the PSAT/NMSQT for the first time
42 after such designation. For purposes of the public school
43 grading system under ss. 1008.34 and 1008.341, Florida Statutes,
44 student performance on the PSAT/NMSQT shall be used in place of
45 student performance on the FCAT, as applicable. The provisions
46 of this section apply to public school students entering grade 9
47 in the 2012-2013 school year and thereafter.

48 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.