

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) or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests to  
8           replace the grade 10 FCAT for purposes of measuring a  
9           student's knowledge and skills; requiring students to  
10          take the PSAT/NMSQT in grade 10 or the ACT's EXPLORE  
11          and PLAN tests in grades 9 and 10, respectively;  
12          requiring students to earn passing scores on the  
13          PSAT/NMSQT or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests to  
14          qualify for a standard high school diploma; requiring  
15          the State Board of Education to designate passing  
16          scores; requiring use of student performance on the  
17          PSAT/NMSQT or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests for  
18          school grading purposes; providing for application  
19          beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2013-  
20          2014 school year; providing 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. Notwithstanding ss. 1003.428, 1003.429, and  
25 1008.22, Florida Statutes, and any other provision of law to the  
26 contrary, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) shall  
27 not be administered to students in grades 9 through 12. The  
28 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test  
29 (PSAT/NMSQT) or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests shall replace

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30 the grade 10 FCAT for purposes of measuring a student's  
31 knowledge and skills in reading, mathematics, and writing. The  
32 PSAT/NMSQT shall be taken by students in grade 10 or the ACT's  
33 EXPLORE and PLAN tests shall be taken by students in grades 9  
34 and 10, respectively, to provide teachers and students with  
35 feedback on a student's strengths and weaknesses and shall be  
36 used as practice and preparation for the SAT Reasoning Test  
37 (SAT) or the ACT as part of the college admission process.  
38 Students must earn a passing score on the PSAT/NMSQT or the  
39 ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests in reading, mathematics, and  
40 writing to qualify for a standard high school diploma. The State  
41 Board of Education shall designate for each section of the  
42 PSAT/NMSQT and the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests a passing score  
43 that is aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards  
44 and demonstrates the proficiency level required for high school  
45 graduation. If a required passing score is raised by the State  
46 Board of Education, the passing score shall apply only to  
47 students taking the PSAT/NMSQT or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN  
48 tests for the first time after such designation. For purposes of  
49 the public school grading system under ss. 1008.34 and 1008.341,  
50 Florida Statutes, student performance on the PSAT/NMSQT or the  
51 ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests shall be used in place of student  
52 performance on the FCAT, as applicable. The provisions of this  
53 section shall apply to public school students entering grade 9  
54 in the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.