

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
76R3223 ESH-D

S.B. 103  
By: Bivins  
Education  
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As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, students must pass the 10th grade exit-level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) covering various subjects in order to graduate from high school. TAAS measures a student's progress toward certain academic goals of the state. There have been requests from businesses and institutions of higher education to administer an exit-level exam with a broader content, which measures the core academic skills needed to succeed in higher education and the workplace. S.B. 103 would require assessment exams to be given with more frequency, and would require exams to be taken in the 11th grade and to include social studies and science.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 103 establishes provisions regarding state assessments of public schools.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is granted to the commissioner of education in SECTION 8.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 28.025(a), Education Code, to authorize a student to graduate and receive a diploma only if the student complies with Section 39.025(a) or the student successfully completes an individualized education program. Deletes text regarding the exit level assessment. Makes a conforming change.

SECTION 2. Amends Sections 39.023(a), (c), (e), Education Code, to require students to be assessed in reading and mathematics annually in grades three through 10; writing in grades four, six, eight, and 10; and science in grades five, seven, and 10. Requires the Texas Education Agency (agency) to adopt secondary exit-level assessments to be administered to students in grade 11 to assess social studies and science. Requires assessment instruments to assess a student's mastery of minimum skills necessary for high school graduation and readiness to enroll in an institution of higher education or enter the workforce. Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to assist the agency in determining skills necessary for enrolling in a higher education institution or the workforce. Exempts students who perform at or above the minimum level established by THECB from the requirements of Section 51.306. Deletes text regarding the required grade of certain test levels. Makes conforming and nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 39.025(a), Education Code, to delete text regarding specific classes administering an assessment exam. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 39.051(b), Education Code, to delete text regarding the percentage of students taking assessment end-of-course instruments. Makes a conforming change.

SECTION 5. Amends Section 39.052(b), Education Code, to makes conforming changes

SECTION 6. Repealers: Section 39.023(d) (regarding allowable modifications of assessment exams for special education students and exemption of exam for students) and Section 39.023(j) (regarding expiration date of subsection), Education Code.

SECTION 7. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 8. Requires the commissioner of education to adopt rules that set forth the implementation of Section 39.023, Education Code.

SECTION 9. Emergency clause.