

Legislative Analysis



MICHIGAN MERIT EXAMINATION

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4810 (H-1) as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. David W. Martin

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

House Bill 4811 (H-1) as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Brad Paquette

Committee: Education
Complete to 3-21-22

SUMMARY:

House Bills 4810 and 4811 would respectively amend the Revised School Code and the State School Aid Act to do both of the following:

- Eliminate provisions that require the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) to include a writing component.
- Eliminate provisions that require a school district or public school academy (PSA, or charter school) to include on a student's high school transcript the student's scaled score on each subject area component of the MME.

House Bill 4811 also would repeal a section of the State School Aid Act that largely duplicates the Revised School Code section that HB 4810 would amend. However, the School Aid Act section also contains additional provisions that are not now included in the Revised School Code. In addition to the changes described above, then, House Bill 4810 would incorporate these provisions into the Revised School Code (see, e.g., subsections (1), (5), (6), (10), (14), and (15)). Although they appear in HB 4810 as changes being made to the law (i.e., with strikes and bold), they are in fact current law, but in the School Aid Act instead of the Revised School Code.

HB 4810: MCL 380.1279g
HB 4811: MCL 388.1704b (repealed)

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the MME must be administered to students in 11th grade (or 12th grade, if the student did not complete the MME in 11th grade) and must include the following:

- Assessments that measure English language arts, math, reading, and science, and are used by colleges and universities for entrance or placement purposes. (The Revised School Code states that this *must* include a writing component in which the student produces an extended writing sample and that the MME must not require any other extended writing sample, and the School Aid Act states that it *may* include one or more writing components. [The bills would eliminate the writing component requirements.])
- At least one test that assesses a student's reading and math skills in a way that employers can use in making employment decisions. The Department of Technology, Management, and Budget and superintendent of public instruction must ensure that the

test can be used to secure the results of a nationally recognized evaluation of workforce readiness. (Currently fulfilled by the ACT WorkKeys assessment.)

- A social studies component.
- Any other component necessary to ensure that the MME complies with the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act and Every Student Succeeds Act.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bills would have no fiscal impact on the state and could result in a cost savings for districts and PSAs.

MDE has indicated that removing the SAT essay component could jeopardize federal funding under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Therefore, it is likely that the state would continue to administer the SAT with the essay component to fulfill federal requirements.

A district or PSA could realize a cost savings related to the removal of the requirement that a district or PSA include a high school graduate's scaled score on each subject area component of the MME on the graduate's high school transcript.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the following associations testified in support of the bills (2-8-22):

- Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling
- Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals

The following organizations indicated support for the bills:

- Michigan Association of School Boards (2-8-22)
- Education Advocates of West Michigan (2-8-22)
- Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce (2-8-22)
- Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators (3-8-22)
- Michigan Cities Education Association (3-8-22)
- Michigan School Counselor Association (3-8-22)

The Department of Education indicated no position on the bills. (2-8-22)

Legislative Analyst: Rick Yuille
Fiscal Analysts: Jacqueline Mullen
Emily Hatch

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.