

## BILL SUMMARY

2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB 2970</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>Committee Sub</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>9641</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Representative Thomsen</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>3/13/2012</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>Beginning FY-14: \$0 Anticipated; Potential Testing Costs, Depending on Contract Negotiations</b>

### Research Analysis

The committee substitute to House Bill 2970 removes language that allows the State Board of Education to give any criterion-referenced tests in any subject not required by federal law and requires that the state give criterion-referenced tests in grades one through eight for reading and math. The state must give grades four through eight criterion-referenced tests in science. The measure removes requirements for other tests in social studies, geography, writing and fine arts. The measure also removes the requirement for end-of-instruction tests in English II, English III, United States History, Biology I, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II at the secondary level. Starting in the 2013-14 school year, eighth grade students must take the ACT Explore high school readiness assessment, tenth grade students must take the ACT Plan college readiness assessment and eleventh grade students must take the ACT WorkKeys job skills assessment. The results of the ACT Explore will be used to develop a learning plan designed for each student. The ACT Compass diagnostic test, given by May 1 of each year, will identify specific areas where students may need remediation in the coming school year. Starting in 2013-14, students in grades nine through 12 who enroll in courses covered by the ACT QualityCore course standard will be administered the QualityCore formative and end-of-course assessments. Starting with those graduating in the 2013-14 school year, unless exempt by law, all students will take the ACT college admissions assessment. The State Board of Education must negotiate a contract with ACT for annual statewide administration of the tests and students and districts will not be responsible for test fees. The State Board of Education must augment the ACT assessments to comply with the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education must provide training sessions for public high school counselors and teachers regarding identification of students who plan to pursue higher education and are in need of remediation. The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technical Education will provide training sessions for teachers and counselors on advising students on postsecondary career opportunities and education preparation necessary for careers and workforce entry.

The measure also repeals the section of law requiring that to graduate students must score proficient or higher on four end-of-instruction tests.

Prepared By: Dawn Marks

### Fiscal Analysis

Costs associated with the measure relate to assessments administered to students in grades one through twelve. Current law requires students in grades three through eight to take certain criterion-referenced tests (CRTs), and secondary-level students to take certain end-of-instruction

tests (EOIs). State expenditures on these two tests total approximately \$3,600,000 for the CRTs and \$4,300,000 for the EOIs according to the State Department of Education.

The CRT testing contract is negotiated as a whole, and is therefore not broken down by subject, but an estimate provided by the State Department of Education in 2010 shows a cost of \$259,567 for each grade. If testing is added in grades one and two, using the 2010 estimate staff can assume a cost of \$519,134. However, this is not an absolute cost, as the contract is negotiated on the whole (as noted above). Furthermore, various existing CRTs (such as grade five social studies and grade seven geography) will be eliminated and others added, which will factor into the cost as well. Total costs would depend on negotiations between the Department and the testing company.

Eliminating the EOIs would reduce testing expenditures, but such a reduction would likely be offset by the cost of additional testing required of high school students. Using current students counts, new testing costs are estimated as:

<u>Test</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Student Count</u>	<u>Cost per Test</u>	<u>Total</u>
ACT Explore	8th	47,330	\$7.25	\$343,143
ACT Plan	10 <sup>th</sup>	45,339	\$8.75	\$396,716
ACT WorkKeys	11th	42,508	\$6.00	\$255,048
<u>ACT</u>	By 12th	42,508	\$32.00	<u>\$1,360,256</u>
Total				\$2,355,163

Additionally, students will be required to take QualityCore end-of-course assessments for courses that are covered by the ACT QualityCore course standard. Neither the State Department of Education nor the ACT Organization can provide a total estimate on this component, as it has yet to be determined how many courses are covered by the standard, or how many students will enroll in each course. ACT estimates a cost of \$19 per student for multiple choice assessments or \$23 per student for constructed response assessments. The measure does not specify which type of assessment is to be administered.

There is no known impact associated with training for high school counselors and teachers required of the State Regents for Higher Education and the State Department of Career and Technology Education, since these agencies already perform these functions in some fashion.

Prepared By: Nicole Barnes

### **Other Considerations**

None