

SENATE BILL 699

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5lr1188
CF 5lr2842

By: **Senator Jennings**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Primary Education – State Standardized Assessments – Moratorium**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to place a moratorium on State
4 standardized assessments in prekindergarten through grade 2 during certain school
5 years; providing that a public school may not be required to administer a certain
6 assessment during a certain time; making a certain exception for the administration
7 of a pilot State standardized assessment in conjunction with a certain report;
8 requiring the State Board of Education, in consultation with certain stakeholders, to
9 report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date;
10 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a moratorium on
11 State standardized assessments.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

13 That:

14 (a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, beginning in the
15 2015–2016 school year and through the end of the 2016–2017 school year, the State Board
16 of Education shall place a moratorium on all State standardized assessments in
17 prekindergarten through grade 2.

18 (b) During the moratorium, a public school may not be required to administer a
19 State standardized assessment in prekindergarten through grade 2.

20 (c) During the moratorium, the State Board of Education may pilot a State
21 standardized assessment in kindergarten in conjunction with the report required under
22 subsection (d) of this section.

23 (d) On or before December 31, 2016, the State Board of Education, in consultation
24 with stakeholders, including kindergarten teachers, local superintendents of education,
25 and local boards of education, shall report to the Senate Education, Health, and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, in
2 accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on:

3 (1) the local school system assessments currently used in prekindergarten
4 through grade 2;

5 (2) the instructional value of any current local school system assessment
6 as compared to the instructional value of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment for a
7 teacher;

8 (3) the overall value of any local school system or State assessment results
9 to a teacher, student, and parent, respectively;

10 (4) whether an assessment is developmentally appropriate for students;

11 (5) the efficiency of the administration of an assessment;

12 (6) methods to minimize a testing window for an assessment in order to
13 minimize the impact on instruction;

14 (7) whether the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment is duplicative of other
15 rating and improvement systems for prekindergarten programs, including the Maryland
16 EXCELS;

17 (8) whether the technology needed to administer an assessment exists in
18 all classrooms in the State; and

19 (9) the quality and consistency of training provided to educators charged
20 with the administration of any State standardized assessment in prekindergarten through
21 grade 2.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
23 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2017,
24 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
25 of no further force and effect.