

HOUSE BILL 397

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6lr1645
CF 6lr1646

By: **Delegates M. Washington and Ebersole**
Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2016
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Assessments – Best Practices in the Administration of Assessments**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to develop a certain set
4 of best practices that the Department and certain local school systems must consider
5 under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to ensure that certain best
6 practices include certain principles; requiring the Department and each local school
7 system to conduct a certain audit of certain assessments; encouraging the
8 Department and certain local school systems to apply for certain federal funds to
9 conduct certain audits; and generally relating to best practices for the administration
10 of assessments in public schools.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Education
13 Section 7–208
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Education**

19 **7–208.**

20 **(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A SET OF BEST PRACTICES THAT**
21 **THE DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS MUST CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING**
22 **WHETHER TO ADMINISTER AN ASSESSMENT OR A TEST TO STUDENTS.**

23 **(B) THE BEST PRACTICES DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS**
24 **SECTION SHALL:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 **(1) BE ALIGNED WITH STATE CURRICULUM AND CONTENT;**
- 2 **(2) BE DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH TEACHERS AND BE OF**
3 **HIGH QUALITY;**
- 4 **(3) BE DESIGNED TO INFORM INSTRUCTION AND HAVE A CLEAR**
5 **PURPOSE;**
- 6 **(4) ALLOW FOR INDIVIDUALIZATION OF STUDENT INSTRUCTION;**
- 7 **(5) PROVIDE TIMELY AND UNDERSTANDABLE FEEDBACK TO THE**
8 **LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS;**
- 9 **(6) EFFECTIVELY MEASURE CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS, COMPLEX**
10 **SKILLS, AND SUBJECT MASTERY;**
- 11 **(7) PROVIDE AN ACCURATE MEASURE OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**
12 **AND STUDENT GROWTH;**
- 13 **(8) PROMOTE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE**
14 **LEARNERS AND STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION ACCOMMODATIONS;**
- 15 **(9) LIMIT THE IMPACT ON INSTRUCTIONAL TIME AND REQUIRED**
16 **TIME OUT OF OTHER CLASSES;**
- 17 **(10) NOT BE USED ONLY FOR ACCOUNTABILITY PURPOSES FOR**
18 **TEACHER-PRINCIPAL EVALUATIONS OR STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES; AND**
- 19 **(11) ADDRESS ANY OTHER PRINCIPLES RECOMMENDED BY THE**
20 **DEPARTMENT.**
- 21 **(c) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF ALL**
22 **STATE-MANDATED ASSESSMENTS THAT ARE ADMINISTERED IN THE STATE TO**
23 **ENSURE CONFORMITY WITH THE BEST PRACTICES DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION**
24 **(A) OF THIS SECTION.**
- 25 **(2) EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF ALL**
26 **LOCALLY MANDATED ASSESSMENTS THAT ARE ADMINISTERED IN THE LOCAL**
27 **SCHOOL SYSTEM TO ENSURE CONFORMITY WITH THE BEST PRACTICES DEVELOPED**
28 **UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Department of
2 Education and local school systems are encouraged to apply for federal funds to audit State
3 and local assessment systems.

4 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2016.