



Romney Building, 10th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

MEAP ADVISORY BOARD

House Bill 5860 as introduced First Analysis (5-26-98)

Sponsor: Rep. Rose Bogardus
Committee: Education

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Legislation enacted late in 1997 made a number of changes in the content and administration of the high school proficiency test (including changing its name to drop the term "proficiency".) One of the new provisions was the creation of an 11-member assessment administration advisory committee to advise the State Board of Education on Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests and the high school test (which is itself a MEAP test, despite often being thought of as distinct from the other tests, which are given to fourth, fifth, seventh, and eighth graders). The committee's job is to evaluate the various tests and make recommendations regarding administration, scoring, and the reporting and use of results. The evaluation is to cover, among other things, the length of the tests; the time of the testing period during the school year; feedback provided to students, parents, and schools; how to accurately and relevantly report results to the general public; retesting periods and arrangements; scoring issues, including categories of scoring; and professional development for teachers. The committee is composed of representatives of school districts, school administrators, teachers, and parents, with the appointments to reflect the geographic and population diversity of school districts in the state. Recently, a special subcommittee of the House Education Committee held a series of hearings on the MEAP program and developed a list of recommendations. One of those is to add to the assessment administration advisory committee an additional member to represent teacher education institutions, so that the voice of those who are educating the future generations of teachers can be added to the conversation.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Revised School Code to require the State Board of Education to appoint an additional member to the assessment administration advisory committee: a representative of an approved teacher education institution. The appointment would have to be made not later than 90 days after the effective date of the bill.

MCL 380.1279

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is no information at present.

ARGUMENTS:

For:

It makes sense to include a representative of the institutions that are training the state's teachers on the newly created advisory committee on student assessment. The recent House subcommittee examining the state MEAP testing program brought to light the need to educate the state's newest teachers about the knowledge base and skill performance required of students so that the teachers will be better equipped to provide the classroom instruction and to use teaching strategies that will help students be successful on state tests. Putting a representative of teacher training institutions on this new committee will allow those institutions, and their students, to be better informed about elementary and secondary school testing and will provide the institutions a voice in the deliberations over how to approve such testing.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the Michigan Education Association and the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel have indicated support for the bill. (5-20-98)

Analyst: C. Couch

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

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