

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2009

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 609 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Limit State-Mandated Tests in Schools/2 Years.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Brubaker, Howard, Blackwell, and Burris-Floyd

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2009-10</u>	<u>FY 2010-11</u>	<u>FY 2011-12</u>	<u>FY 2012-13</u>	<u>FY 2013-14</u>
GENERAL FUND:					
Revenues:	--	--	--	--	--
Expenditures:	(\$3,636,594)	(\$3,636,594)	--	--	--
POSITIONS:	--	--	--	--	--
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Department of Public Instruction					
EFFECTIVE DATE: This act becomes effective July 1, 2009, and expires June 30, 2011					

BILL SUMMARY: This bill would place a two-year moratorium on the State Board of Education’s ability to expend funds to develop or support any standardized tests other than those required by federal law or as a condition of federal grants.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: A review of end-of-grade (EOG) and end-of-course (EOC) tests indicates a total of eight tests that are currently administered and are **not** required by federal law or as a condition of federal grants. The table below summarizes the estimated cost of each of these tests:

Estimated Cost of Tests Not Required by Federal Law

Test	Estimated Cost
EOC Tests-Algebra II	\$485,286
EOC Tests-Physical Science	\$585,482
EOC Tests-Physics	\$487,566
EOC Tests-Geometry	\$522,313
EOC Tests-Chemistry	\$587,771
Competency Test-Reading	\$9,966
Competency Test-Math	\$8,379
Computer Skills	\$949,831
Total Estimated Cost	\$3,636,594

For each test in the table above, the estimated cost includes the costs of test development (about 58% of total costs), technical support (about 20% of total costs), printing/materials (about 10% of total costs), and scoring (about 7% of total costs).

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Public Instruction

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Certain of the above tests are required for graduation per State Board policy. Therefore cutting these tests would require a change in State Board policies related to graduation.

The Competency Tests in math and reading are graduation requirements for students who were in the 8th grade prior to 2005-06. For 2009-10, these tests would only be required for students who did not graduate and request to take the test to meet graduation requirements.

For students who were in 8th grade on or after the 2005-06 school year, the Computer Skills test is a graduation requirement.

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