

**UPDATED SUMMARY
HOUSE BILL 14-1202**

Second Regular Session - Sixty-ninth Colorado General Assembly

This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house. It does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. This summary reflects only the main points of the legislation.

~~Under current law, each school district is required to administer statewide assessments in various subjects in each of grades 3 through 11 (statewide testing requirements), and the state board of education (state board) cannot waive this requirement. The bill directs the state board to waive most of the statewide testing requirements for a school district that submits a school district assessment plan that meets specified requirements. A school district that receives a waiver must publish its assessment results on the school district web site and submit the results to the department of education (department) for publishing on the department web site that reports the academic performance of all school districts and public schools. If a school district that receives a waiver fails to meet statewide targets for academic performance for 3 consecutive school years, the state board must modify the school district's waiver to require the school district to administer the statewide assessments in the subjects in which it failed to meet the statewide targets; except that a single student cannot be required to take more than one statewide assessment in a school year. The parent of a student who is enrolled in a school district that receives a waiver may excuse his or her child from participating in any standardized assessments, including a statewide assessment. The department cannot penalize a school district, and a school district cannot penalize the student or the student's teacher, if a parent excuses his or her child from testing.~~

The bill creates the standards and assessments task force (task force) to study the implementation of statewide assessments and local assessments, the feasibility of waiving certain statewide assessment requirements, and accountability for school districts that may receive waivers of certain assessment requirements. The speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives, the president and minority leader of the senate, and the commissioner of education must appoint the members of the task force by July 1, 2014. The department of education (department) must provide information and support to the task force upon request.

In its study, the task force must seek input and use information received from a representative sample of school districts and public schools throughout the state. The task force must prepare a final report of its findings, and may prepare both a majority report and one or more minority reports. The task force will present the reports to a joint hearing of the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate no later than January 31, 2015.

Prepared by the Office of Legislative Legal Services.