



Senate Education Committee

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BILL SUMMARY
Senate Bill 1436, Printer's No. 1900
Prime Sponsor: Piccola

A. SYNOPSIS:

Senate Bill 1436 would prohibit the Department of Education (PDE) or the State Board of Education (State Board) from taking any action prior to June 30, 2020 that would have the effect of eliminating, limiting or delaying the development of Keystone Exams or that would have the effect of changing the current regulatory requirement that Keystone Exams used as a graduation requirement must count for at least one-third of a student's final course grade.

B. BILL ANALYSIS:

S.B. 1436 would amend the Public School Code of 1949 (School Code) to do the following:

- Statutorily define "Keystone Exam" to mean "an assessment developed or caused to be developed by the Department of Education pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 4.51(f) (relating to State assessment system)."
- Prohibit PDE from taking any action prior to June 30, 2020 that has the effect of eliminating, limiting or delaying the development or implementation of Keystone Exams.
- Prohibit the State Board from making any rule or regulation or adopting any statement of policy, standard or principle prior to June 30, 2020 that has the effect of eliminating, limiting or delaying the development or implementation of Keystone Exams by PDE.

The bill's provisions would take effect immediately upon enactment.

C. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT EXISTING LAW:

Currently, the requirement that PDE develop Keystone Exams lies not in the School Code but in the regulations of the State Board of Education found in 22 Pa. Code. Specifically, under 22 Pa. Code § 4.51(f), the State Board has required PDE to develop or cause to be developed Keystone Exams and has established certain requirements for the Keystone Exams, including the number of Keystone Exams to be offered, the courses the Keystone Exams will cover and a schedule for their implementation. Further, under 22 Pa. Code § 4.51(f)(8), the State Board requires that a Keystone Exam used to determine proficiency to meet high school graduation requirements must count for at least one-third of the final course grade and may be counted for more than one-third of the final course grade at the sole election of the school district, area vocational-technical school or charter school.

D. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Amendment A09334 (Piccola) would amend S.B. 1436 to further prohibit PDE from taking any action prior to June 30, 2020 that would have the effect of modifying the provisions of 22 Pa. Code § 4.51(f)(8) (containing the requirement that Keystone Exams count for at least one-third of the final course grade), and to further prohibit the State Board from making any rule or regulation or adopting any statement of policy, standard or principle prior to June 30, 2020 that would have the effect of modifying the provisions of 22 Pa. Code § 4.51(f)(8) (containing the requirement that Keystone Exams count for at least one-third of the final course grade).