



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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REQ. BASIC/EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS TEST

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House Bill 4287

Sponsor: Rep. James E. O'Neill, Mich. State Law Library
Committee: Education

Complete to 3-7-89

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4287 AS INTRODUCED 2-23-89

The bill would amend the School Code to require local school districts to administer a "basic and employability skills test," approved by the State Board of Education, to all students before graduation (although the state board could exempt special education students), the results of which would be reflected on each student's transcript.

Beginning May 1, 1991, each public school student would have to be given the opportunity to take his or her local district's "basic and employability skills test" in the tenth grade, and each student would be required to take the test before graduating from high school. (The test would in fact be a battery of tests aimed at assessing competency in English, mathematics, science, and other subject areas designated by the State Board of Education, as well as assessing competency in selected "employability skills.") The results of the test would be part of the student's transcript. A student assessed as not competent in a subject or skill area would be able to repeat the test at least once during the school year. Further, whenever a student had failed to achieve a competency, a meeting would have to be arranged involving the student, a parent or guardian, and a member of the school district staff competent in the measurement and evaluation of students in order to determine an educational program to enable the student to achieve competency. The school board could provide special remedial programs or develop a remedial program using the educational programs regularly provided by the district. A person who had finished high school could repeat the skills test at any time and have his or her transcript revised to indicate competency in a subject or skill.

The bill would require the State Board of Education to appoint a Basic and Employability Skills Test Advisory Committee to recommend by September 1, 1989, guidelines for the development and administration of the skills test. The committee would have to include representatives of parents, the community, labor, management, and education organizations and associations, and the state board would have to make available technical consultants. By January 1, 1990, the state board would have to provide local districts with test guidelines based on the advisory committee's work, and by September 1, 1990, the state board would develop or select a skills test and make it available to local districts. By January 1, 1991, each local district would have to notify the Department of Education whether it intended to use the state's test or submit its own to the department for approval. If requested, the department would assist a local district in developing and administering a skills test. The state board would annually have to submit in writing a summary analysis of the skills test program to the Senate and House committees with responsibility for education legislation. The first report would be due by January 1, 1993.

MCL 380.1282a

House Bill 4287 (3-7-89)