



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 1

Bill #:SL-08

1 **Sponsors:** Sophia Gugino, Brooke Hutchison

2

3 **An Act To** Add New York State Education Law Article 7-B repealing article 7-A
4 and no longer having a state exam for grades 3-8.

5

6 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

7

8 **Purpose** The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the need for the New York State
9 Test in grades 3 through 8

10 **Summary of Provisions**

11 Section 1 Article 7-a of EDN Law 341 of New York State is hereby repealed.

12 Section 2

13

14 **Justification**

15 As elementary and middle schoolers, the majority of students sit through the
16 NYS state tests twice a year for math and science from third to eighth grade, with
17 an additional science exam in fourth and eighth. Students are prepped for these
18 exams all year, however, the score received does not do anything for the student.
19 Instead, these scores are used to show how well a teacher taught the material and
20 standards the state expects student to reach. This alone causes issues for teachers
21 as they may begin to only teach tested material and worry about how it will reflect
22 on themselves. Students are only receiving a short term, surface understanding of
23 the material and retaining only what is necessary to pass the exam. Unlike the
24 Regents exams taken in high school, there is no retest option if you perform poorly.
25 This again strikes the question of if this is helping the students or leaving them with
26 a burden knowing they did not get the grade they hoped for. A "one size fits all"
27 exam is unable to showcase where some students have twenty-first century skills,
28 and tends to only highlight where they are unable to retain information that may
29 not be important to their future.

30

31 **Fiscal Implications**

32 By repealing NYS exams for students grades three through eight the state will be
33 able to save around 93.6 million dollars a year on the nation's 669 million spent on
34 standardized exams. NYS alone spends \$7 per child per test. This seems minuscule,
35 but this means that from third to eighth grade the school spends \$98 for you to
36 take the state exams. As a nation we spend \$1.7 billion on standardized testing,
37 only .25% of the yearly amount spent on education. Ultimately, removing state



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38 wide exams will help the schools budget as they no longer have to pay for the
39 testing, which can be used in other important areas.
40 **Effective Date** Effective September 1, 2020