

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to student assessment in the public  
 3           schools; terminating the administration of the Florida  
 4           Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) to students in grades  
 5           9 through 12; requiring the Preliminary SAT/National Merit  
 6           Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) to replace the  
 7           grade 10 FCAT for purposes of measuring a student's  
 8           knowledge and skills; requiring students to take the  
 9           PSAT/NMSQT in grade 10; requiring students to earn passing  
 10          scores on the PSAT/NMSQT to qualify for a standard high  
 11          school diploma; requiring the State Board of Education to  
 12          designate passing scores; requiring use of student  
 13          performance on the PSAT/NMSQT for school grading purposes;  
 14          providing for application beginning with students entering  
 15          grade 9 in the 2011-2012 school year; providing an  
 16          effective date.

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 18   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 20           Section 1. Notwithstanding ss. 1003.428, 1003.429,  
 21 1003.43, and 1008.22, Florida Statutes, and any other provision  
 22 of law to the contrary, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment  
 23 Test (FCAT) shall not be administered to students in grades 9  
 24 through 12. The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship  
 25 Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) shall replace the grade 10 FCAT for  
 26 purposes of measuring a student's knowledge and skills in  
 27 reading, mathematics, and writing. The PSAT/NMSQT shall be taken  
 28 by students in grade 10 to provide teachers and students with

29 feedback on a student's strengths and weaknesses and shall be  
30 used as practice and preparation for the SAT Reasoning Test  
31 (SAT) for students who will take the SAT as part of the college  
32 admission process. Students must earn a passing score on the  
33 PSAT/NMSQT in reading, mathematics, and writing to qualify for a  
34 standard high school diploma. The State Board of Education shall  
35 designate a passing score for each section of the PSAT/NMSQT  
36 that is aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards  
37 and demonstrates the proficiency level required for high school  
38 graduation. If a required passing score is raised by the State  
39 Board of Education, the passing score shall apply only to  
40 students taking the PSAT/NMSQT for the first time after such  
41 designation. For purposes of the public school grading system  
42 under ss. 1008.34 and 1008.341, Florida Statutes, student  
43 performance on the PSAT/NMSQT shall be used in place of student  
44 performance on the FCAT, as applicable. The provisions of this  
45 section shall apply to public school students entering grade 9  
46 in the 2011-2012 school year and thereafter.

47 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.