Overview

Some people believe that matters such as the number and complexity of profile of learning requirements may make it difficult for students who entered the ninth grade during the 1998-1999 or 1999-2000 school year to complete all the profile of learning requirements needed to graduate from high school under the current rule. This bill proposes to establish a two-year moratorium on profile of learning requirements during which time the commissioner of children, families and learning must contract with an independent organization to provide an external review of the state's standards and assessments related to the profile of learning. The bill also proposes to repeal for the next school year that portion of the profile of learning rule that makes the outstanding work of third, fifth, eighth and twelfth grade students the exemplars by which to measure all students' work.

1. **Students held harmless.** Precludes school districts from denying a high school diploma to students who entered the ninth grade during the 1998-1999 or 1999-2000 school year and who fail to complete profile of learning requirements needed to graduate from high school. Makes profile of learning requirements needed to graduate from high school applicable to students entering the ninth grade during the 2000-2001 school year. Directs school districts to complete preparations for fully implementing the profile of learning for students entering the ninth grade during the 2000-2001 school year and later.

2. **Contract for independent review.** Directs the commissioner of children, families and learning to contract with an independent organization to provide an external review of the state's standards and assessments related to the profile of learning. Requires the review to be consistent with the state's efforts to raise academic standards and hold schools accountable for performance.

3. **Repealer.** Repeals that portion of the profile of learning rule that makes the outstanding work of third, fifth, eighth and twelfth grade students the exemplars by which to measure all students' work.

4. **Effective date.** Makes sections 1 and 2 immediately effective. Makes section 4 effective for the
2000-2001 school year and later.