

By Senator Campbell

33-900-98

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; creating the
3 "Florida Maximum Class Size Goals Act";
4 providing intent; providing goals relating to
5 class size in certain grade levels; providing
6 for funding; providing for review of statutory
7 mandates; requiring annual reports and a study
8 based on class size reductions; providing an
9 effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. (1) This section may be cited as the
14 "Florida Maximum Class Size Goals Act."

15 (2) The Legislature finds that class size, especially
16 in the primary grades, is a major factor in the ability of
17 students to learn and of classroom teachers to teach. It is,
18 therefore, the intent of the Legislature to establish class
19 size standards that will promote educational success.

20 (3) It shall be the goal of the Legislature and each
21 school district that each elementary school in the school
22 district beginning with kindergarten in the 1998-1999 school
23 year, for kindergarten and grade level one in the 1999-2000
24 school year, for kindergarten and grade levels one and two in
25 the 2000-2001 school year, and for kindergarten and grade
26 levels one, two, and three in the 2001-2002 school year, class
27 sizes not exceed 20 students, with a ratio of one
28 full-time-equivalent teacher per 20 students. For the
29 purposes of this act, class sizes that exceed 20 students meet
30 the goal if, for every ten students above a base of 20
31 students, there is at least one full-time-equivalent teacher

1 aide in the classroom for the same number of hours as the
2 students.

3 (4) Each school district shall implement the goals in
4 this section to the extent funds are provided through the
5 General Appropriations Act.

6 (5) Beginning January 1, 1999, and each year
7 thereafter, the Department of Education shall report to the
8 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
9 Representatives school district expenditures and class size
10 reductions as a result of this act.

11 (6) The Department of Education shall provide for a
12 longitudinal study of the benefits to students and the impact
13 on student achievement of small class size based on reductions
14 in class size for the 1998-1999 school year, as a result of an
15 appropriation for such purpose, and for the 1999-2000,
16 2000-2001, and 2001-2002 school years, as a result of
17 implementation of this act. The results of the study shall be
18 reported to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
19 House of Representatives by December 1, 2002.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998.

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23 SENATE SUMMARY

24 Creates the Florida Maximum Class Size Goals Act.
25 Provides goals related to class size in certain grade
26 levels. Requires reports and a study on the effects of
the act.