

By the Committee on Education and Senator Campbell

304-2195A-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; amending s.  
9           233.0612, F.S.; encouraging school boards to  
10          install character-development programs in  
11          elementary schools; providing an effective  
12          date.

13

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

15

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

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

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

1 sizes that exceed 20 students meet the goal if, for every ten  
2 students above a base of 20 students, there is at least one  
3 full-time-equivalent teacher aide in the classroom for the  
4 same number of hours as the students.

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

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

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

22 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 233.0612, Florida  
23 Statutes, is amended to read:

24 233.0612 Authorized instruction.--Each school district  
25 may provide students with programs and instruction at the  
26 appropriate grade levels in areas including, but not limited  
27 to, the following:

28 (1) Character development and law education. Each  
29 school board shall be encouraged to install in the elementary  
30 schools of the district a program in character development  
31 which is the same as or similar to the Character Counts or

1 Character First! Education Series. The programs must be  
2 secular in nature and stress such character qualities as  
3 attentiveness, patience, and initiative.

4 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998.

5  
6 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
8 SB 1374

9 The committee substitute differs from SB 1374 in that school  
10 districts are encouraged to install character development  
11 programs in elementary schools.

12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31