

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 classroom teachers to teach. It is,  
18 therefore, the intent of the Legislature to establish class  
19 size standards which 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 1997-1998 school  
23 year, for kindergarten and grade level one in the 1998-1999  
24 school year, for kindergarten and grade levels one and two in  
25 the 1999-2000 school year, and for kindergarten and grade  
26 levels one, two, and three in the 2000-2001 school year, class  
27 sizes not exceed 20 students, with a ratio of one full-time  
28 equivalent teacher per 20 students. For the purposes of this  
29 act, class sizes that exceed 20 students meet the goal if, for  
30 every ten students above a base of 20 students, there is at

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1 least one full-time equivalent teacher aide in the classroom  
2 for the same number of hours as the students.

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

6 (5) Beginning January 1, 1998, 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 the provisions 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 1997-1998 school year, as a result of an  
15 appropriation for such purpose, and for the 1998-1999,  
16 1999-2000, and 2000-2001 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, 2001.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.  
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