

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; creating the  
3           "Florida Maximum Class Size Study Act";  
4           requiring school districts to reduce the  
5           teacher-to-student ratio in certain schools;  
6           requiring the Department of Education to  
7           conduct a study of the efficacy of class size  
8           reductions; providing legislative goals;  
9           providing an 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 Study Act."

15           (2) During school year 1998-1999, each school district  
16 using funds provided in the 1998-1999 General Appropriations  
17 Act for the purpose of class size reduction shall, in at least  
18 one elementary school, reduce the teacher-to-student ratio to  
19 one full-time equivalent teacher to 20 students in  
20 kindergarten through grade three. In any district where there  
21 is a critically low-performing elementary school as identified  
22 by the Commissioner of Education, such school shall be  
23 selected for inclusion in the program under this subsection in  
24 preference to any other school in the district, and the ratio  
25 to be achieved in such schools shall be one full-time  
26 equivalent teacher to 15 students. In the case of a district  
27 with more than one elementary school identified by the  
28 commissioner as critically low-performing, the selection of a  
29 school shall be performed by the district school board by lot.

30           (3) At the conclusion of the 1998-1999 school year,  
31 the Department of Education shall conduct a complete study of

1 the efficacy of the reductions in class size provided for in  
2 subsection (2). The study shall involve all participating  
3 schools and shall be focused on obtaining verifiable data  
4 regarding the benefits of class size reduction in terms of  
5 student achievement and performance. Results of the study  
6 shall be presented to the Governor, the President of the  
7 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the  
8 minority leader of each house not later than January 1, 2000.

9 (4) Beginning with school year 1998-1999, it shall be  
10 the goal of the Legislature and each school district that each  
11 elementary school in the school district beginning with  
12 kindergarten through grade three class sizes not exceed 20  
13 students, with a ratio of one full-time equivalent teacher per  
14 20 students; except that only in the case of critically  
15 low-performing schools as identified by the Commissioner of  
16 Education, the goal in kindergarten through grade three shall  
17 be a ratio of one full-time equivalent teacher per 15  
18 students. For purposes of any funding in the General  
19 Appropriations Act to meet these goals, the district shall  
20 give priority to identified critically low-performing schools  
21 in the district. Second priority for the use of any funds  
22 designated for meeting these goals shall be for kindergarten  
23 through grade one. Third priority for the use of any funds  
24 designated for meeting these goals shall be for grades two and  
25 three.

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