

By Senator Dyer

14-650-99

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to education; creating the  
 3           "Maximum School Size Act"; providing  
 4           legislative findings; requiring school  
 5           districts to submit plans to the Department of  
 6           Education for decreasing the size of public  
 7           schools; prescribing information to be included  
 8           in the plans; prohibiting such plans from  
 9           conflicting with current law relating to class  
 10          size, construction standards, or construction  
 11          costs per student; requiring the department to  
 12          submit a report and recommendation to the  
 13          Legislature and the Governor; providing an  
 14          effective date.

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

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 18           Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Maximum  
 19 School Size Act."

20           Section 2. (1) Based on extensive and reliable  
 21 research the Legislature finds that studies indicate that  
 22 small school size:

23           (a) Promotes student achievement and sense of  
 24 belonging;

25           (b) Improves teacher performance and satisfaction,  
 26 creating a more collaborative effort among colleagues;

27           (c) Reduces the number of acts of social disruption  
 28 and criminality; and

29           (d) Increases parental involvement in student learning  
 30 and school activities.

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1           (2) It is the goal of the state to decrease the size  
2 of its primary schools, grades kindergarten through six, to no  
3 more than 400 students per school by school year 2003-2004.  
4 Further, it is the goal of the state to decrease its secondary  
5 schools, grades seven through twelve, to no more than 600  
6 students per middle school and no more than 800 students per  
7 high school by school year 2003-2004.

8           (3) To accomplish these goals, each school district  
9 shall submit to the Department of Education its plans for  
10 meeting school size standards, as stated in subsection (2), by  
11 October 31, 1999. Each plan should present a detailed account  
12 of and include:

13           (a) The average school populations for elementary,  
14 middle, and high schools as of June 30, 1999;

15           (b) The most cost-effective means of achieving these  
16 goals, including, without limitation, new construction,  
17 schools-within-schools, usage of existing properties,  
18 year-around scheduling, block scheduling, and extended day  
19 schedules; and

20           (c) The administrative and instructional personnel  
21 needs and costs to accommodate the plan.

22           (4) The goals for establishing small schools should  
23 not violate statutes or rules relating to class size,  
24 construction standards, or construction costs per-student  
25 station. The extent to which an individual school district's  
26 plan will depart from these current standards and goals, must  
27 be specified in the school district's plan.

28           (5) The Department of Education shall use the school  
29 size plans submitted by each school district as a basis for a  
30 report and recommendation to be presented with its 2000-2001  
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