

By Senator Campbell

33-595-99

See HB

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to class size; amending s.
236.687, F.S., requiring the Legislature to
annually appropriate to the Department of
Education an amount sufficient to reduce the
class size of all kindergarten through grade
three classes to twenty students per full-time
equivalent teacher; providing an effective
date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 236.687,
Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, are amended to read:

236.687 Florida Maximum Class Size ~~Study~~ Act.--

(1) This section may be cited as the "Florida Maximum
Class Size ~~Study~~ Act."

(4) Beginning with school year 1998-1999, it shall be
the goal of the Legislature and each school district that each
elementary school in the school district beginning with
kindergarten through grade three class sizes not exceed 20
students, with a ratio of one full-time equivalent teacher per
20 students; except that only in the case of critically
low-performing schools as identified by the Commissioner of
Education, the goal in kindergarten through grade three shall
be a ratio of one full-time equivalent teacher per 15
students. Beginning with the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the
Legislature shall annually appropriate to the Department of
Education an amount from the General Revenue Fund sufficient
to reduce the class size of all kindergarten through grade
three classes to twenty students per full-time equivalent

1 teacher.For purposes of any funding in the General
2 Appropriations Act to meet these goals, the district shall
3 give priority to identified critically low-performing schools
4 in the district. Second priority for the use of any funds
5 designated for meeting these goals shall be for kindergarten
6 through grade one. Third priority for the use of any funds
7 designated for meeting these goals shall be for grades two and
8 three.

9 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Requires the Legislature to annually appropriate to the Department of Education an amount sufficient to reduce the class size of all kindergarten through grade three classes to twenty students per full-time equivalent teacher.