By Representatives L. Miller, Ritter, Wasserman Schultz, Hafner, Wilson, Eggelletion, Henriquez, Effman, C. Smith, Greenstein, Sobel, Stafford, Rayson, Ritchie, Kosmas, Healey, Levine, Jacobs, Lee, Betancourt, Bullard, Bush, Hill, Bloom, Heyman, Frankel and Turnbull

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to education; creating the Florida Education Funding Act of 2000; providing legislative findings and intent; providing for the hiring of additional district school instructional personnel; providing for an increase in district school instructional personnel salaries; providing requirements for distribution of funds appropriated for such purposes; providing appropriations; providing an effective date.

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WHEREAS, the hiring of an additional 10,000 teachers over the next 4 years will help reduce class size and allow teachers to spend more one-on-one time with students, and

WHEREAS, an additional 8,300 teachers are needed to meet the 1998 legislative goal of one teacher to every 20 students in kindergarten through third grade, and

WHEREAS, an additional 1,700 teachers are needed in the state's failing schools to help lift them up and ensure that all children have a high-quality public education, and

WHEREAS, our children deserve to have motivated, high-quality, well-trained, and well-paid teachers in every Florida classroom, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida was given a letter grade of "D" in Education Week's "Quality Counts 2000" report for failing to recruit and retain competent teachers, and

WHEREAS, a 10-percent pay increase for the state's teachers will help school boards attract, retain, and reward the good teachers Florida's students and parents demand, NOW THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Florida Education Funding Act of 2000."

Section 2. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide funding for school districts to hire an additional 10,000 instructional personnel over the next 4 years. The Department of Education has determined and will continue to monitor the progress of the school districts in achieving the legislative class size reduction goal as identified in s. 236.687, Florida Statutes.

- (2) The Department of Education shall distribute to the school districts the funds appropriated to carry out the provisions of this section. The distribution of funds for 8,256 instructional personnel shall be based on the Department of Education's October 1999 study on class size reduction, and the funds for 1,744 instructional personnel shall be based on the number of "F" schools per school district in school year 1998-1999.
- (3) There is hereby appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education the sum of \$93,238,326 in recurring funds for each of the fiscal years 2000-2001 through 2003-2004 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section.

Section 3. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide school districts with sufficient funding to increase Florida's average instructional personnel salary by 10 percent to align instructional personnel salaries more closely with the national average teacher salary.

(2) The Department of Education shall distribute to the school districts the funds appropriated to carry out the

provisions of this section. The distribution of funds for instructional personnel salaries shall be based on the number of instructional personnel per school district as reported by the Department of Education during the 1998-1999 school year. The number of instructional personnel per school district shall be multiplied by the average annual statewide salary for such personnel, and that product multiplied by 10 percent, for the distribution per school district. There is hereby appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education the sum of \$481,300,957 in recurring funds for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section. Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000. HOUSE SUMMARY Creates the Florida Education Funding Act of 2000 to provide for the hiring of additional district school instructional personnel and for an increase in district school instructional personnel salaries. Provides appropriations and requirements for distribution of the funds appropriated. See bill for details.