

By Representative Wilson

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to class size; amending s.  
 3           236.687, F.S.; revising priorities for the use  
 4           of funds for class size reduction; providing  
 5           funds for the construction of primary learning  
 6           centers; defining the term "primary learning  
 7           center"; requiring that funds received for  
 8           class size reduction be returned to the  
 9           Department of Education under certain  
 10          circumstances; providing an effective date.

11  
 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
 14           Section 1. Section 236.687, Florida Statutes, is  
 15 amended to read:

16           236.687 Maximum class size goals.--It shall be the  
 17 goal of the Legislature and each school district that each  
 18 elementary school in the school district beginning with  
 19 kindergarten through grade three class sizes not exceed 20  
 20 students, with a ratio of one full-time equivalent teacher per  
 21 20 students; except that only in the case of the 100 lowest  
 22 performing critically low-performing schools in the state, as  
 23 identified by the Commissioner of Education, the goal in  
 24 kindergarten through grade three shall be a ratio of one  
 25 full-time equivalent teacher per 15 students. ~~For purposes of~~  
 26 ~~any~~ Funding provided in the General Appropriations Act to meet  
 27 these goals shall be utilized to reduce class size in the  
 28 following order of priority:

29           (1) First the district shall give priority shall be  
 30 given to identified critically low-performing schools for the  
 31 construction of primary learning centers in the district. As

1 used in this section, the term "primary learning center" shall  
2 mean a stand-alone wing of kindergarten through grade 3  
3 classrooms, each of which is equipped with a restroom and can  
4 accommodate a teacher and a maximum of 20 students.

5 (2) Second priority ~~for the use of any funds~~  
6 designated for meeting these goals shall be given to the 100  
7 lowest performing schools in the state, as identified by the  
8 commissioner.

9 (3) Third priority shall be given to ~~for~~ kindergarten  
10 through grade one.

11 (4) ~~Fourth~~ Third priority ~~for the use of any funds~~  
12 designated for meeting these goals shall be given to ~~for~~  
13 grades two and three.

14  
15 Any district receiving funds pursuant to this section shall  
16 maintain class sizes in kindergarten through grade 3 in  
17 participating schools at or below the intended goal for at  
18 least 3 years after such space is occupied, or refund any  
19 funds received pursuant to this subsection to the Department  
20 of Education.

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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24 HOUSE SUMMARY

25  
26 Revises priorities for the use of funds for class size  
27 reduction. Provides funds for the construction of primary  
28 learning centers. Defines the term "primary learning  
29 center." Requires that funds received for class size  
30 reduction be returned to the Department of Education  
31 under certain circumstances.