

By Senator Campbell

33-276-02

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; amending s.  
3           236.687, F.S.; specifying the maximum class  
4           size for kindergarten through grade three in  
5           public schools; providing priorities for school  
6           districts in complying with the requirements  
7           for class size; specifying the maximum class  
8           size for grades four through 12 in public  
9           schools; requiring school districts to employ a  
10          licensed social worker and a licensed  
11          psychologist for each elementary and secondary  
12          school; providing an appropriation; providing  
13          an effective date.

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

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17           Section 1. Section 236.687, Florida Statutes, is  
18 amended to read:

19           236.687 Maximum class size ~~goals~~--

20           (1) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year and  
21 thereafter, the class size for it shall be the goal of the  
22 ~~legislature and each school district that~~ each elementary  
23 school in each the school district in beginning with  
24 kindergarten through grade three may ~~class sizes~~ not exceed 20  
25 students, with a ratio of one full-time-equivalent ~~full-time~~  
26 ~~equivalent~~ teacher per 20 students; however, ~~except that only~~  
27 in the case of critically low-performing schools as identified  
28 by the Commissioner of Education, the goal in kindergarten  
29 through grade three shall be a ratio of one full-time  
30 equivalent teacher per 15 students. For purposes of any  
31 funding in the General Appropriations Act to comply with this

1 subsection ~~meet these goals~~, the district shall give priority  
2 to identified critically low-performing schools in the  
3 district. Second priority for the use of any funds designated  
4 for complying with this subsection ~~meeting these goals~~ shall  
5 be for kindergarten through grade one. Third priority for the  
6 use of any funds designated for complying with this subsection  
7 ~~meeting these goals~~ shall be for grades two and three.

8 (2) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year and  
9 thereafter, the class size for each school in each school  
10 district in grades four through 12 may not exceed 25 students,  
11 with a ratio of one full-time-equivalent teacher per 25  
12 students.

13 Section 2. School districts to employ school social  
14 workers and psychologists.--Beginning with the 2002-2003  
15 school year and thereafter, each school district in the state  
16 shall employ a psychologist licensed under chapter 490,  
17 Florida Statutes, and a social worker licensed under chapter  
18 491, Florida Statutes, for each elementary and secondary  
19 school in the district. The psychologist and social worker  
20 shall be available to counsel students during regular school  
21 hours.

22 Section 3. The sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is appropriated from  
23 the General Revenue Fund to the district school boards for the  
24 purpose of carrying out this act during the 2002-2003 fiscal  
25 year.

26 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
27 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Requires school districts to limit classes in kindergarten through grade three to 20 students per class and to limit classes in grade four through grade 12 to 25 students per class. Requires school districts to employ a licensed psychologist and a licensed social worker who are available during regular school hours in each elementary and secondary school.