By Senator Wilson

33-103A-06

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to elementary education;
creating s. 1003.035, F.S.; providing a maximum student-teacher ratio for classrooms in grades

K through 3 of schools designated as the 100
lowest-performing elementary schools; requiring the construction of primary learning centers at such schools by a specified deadline; providing criteria for such centers; requiring the hiring of teachers of reading skills at such schools by a specified deadline; providing for continuing operational funding for each such center and school that meets eligibility requirements; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1003.035, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
1003.035 Student-teacher ratio in grades K through 3
of the lowest-performing elementary schools; construction of
primary learning centers; funding for teachers of reading
skills; incentive funding.--
(1) In the 100 lowest-performing elementary schools in
this state, for each classroom in kindergarten through grade
3 , there shall be a student-teacher ratio of no more than 15
students per one full-time equivalent teacher. The
Commissioner of Education shall select the schools that the
commissioner designates as the 100 lowest-performing
elementary schools from schools that are defined under s.
1008.34 as "failing to make adequate progress" or "F" schools.

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CODING: Words are deletions; words underlined are additions.

If there are not at least 100 elementary schools in the state which are rated as "F" schools, the commissioner may also choose to include in the 100 lowest-performing elementary schools some that are defined as "making less than satisfactory progress" or "D" schools.
(2) By the beginning of the 2008-2009 school vear, there must be constructed at each of the 100 lowest-performing elementary schools a primary learning center that is a stand-alone wing housing classrooms that are only for students in kindergarten through grade 3. Each center must be equipped with at least one restroom, and each classroom in the wing must be able to accommodate a teacher and a maximum of 15 students.
(3) By the beginning of the 2008-2009 school vear, there shall be provided to each of the 100 lowest-performing elementary schools sufficient incentive operational funding to hire and train teachers who are specialists in reading skills, in the ratio of one such additional teacher for every 15 students in kindergarten through grade 3.
(4) At least through the 2011-2012 school vear, the Legislature shall provide incentive operational funding to allow each of the 100 lowest-performing elementary schools to maintain the maximum classroom ratio of 15 students to one full-time equivalent teacher in kindergarten through grade 3 and to retain the reading teachers required under subsection (3). A school that is otherwise eligible for incentive funding under this subsection but that has more than 15 students per teacher in any classroom for students in kindergarten through grade 3 is ineligible to receive the incentive funding.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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CODING: Words atricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
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SENATE SUMMARY
Provides a maximum student-teacher ratio for classrooms
in grades $K$ through 3 of schools designated as the 100
lowest-performing elementary schools. Requires the
construction of primary learning centers at such schools
by a specified deadline. Provides criteria for such
centers. Requires the hiring of teachers of reading
skills at such schools by a specified deadline. Provides
for continuing operational funding for each such center
and school that meets eligibility requirements.

