1	State of Arkansas	As Engrossed: H12/23/03 H1/9/04	Call	Item 4	
2	84th General Assembly	A Bill			
3	Second Extraordinary Session, 2003 HOUSE BILL 10			1063	
4					
5	By: Representatives Elliott, Cleveland				
6					
7					
8		For An Act To Be Entitled			
9	AN ACT	TO CREATE THREE (3) PILOT PROGRAMS TO			
10	STUDY 1	THE EFFECT OF REDUCING TEACHER-STUDENT			
11	RATIOS	IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELVE	(K-		
12	12); Al	ND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.			
13					
14		Subtitle			
15	AN A	ACT TO CREATE THREE (3) PILOT			
16	PRO	GRAMS TO STUDY THE EFFECT OF REDUCING			
17	TEA	CHER-STUDENT RATIOS IN GRADES			
18	KIN	DERGARTEN THROUGH TWELVE (K-12).			
19					
20					
21	BE IT ENACTED BY THE	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKAN	SAS:		
22					
23	SECTION 1. Ark	ansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15 Subchap	ter l is amende	ed	
24	to add two additional	sections to read as follows:			
25	<u>6-15-102.</u> Find	lings Purpose.			
26	(a) The Genera	al Assembly finds that:			
27	<u>(1)</u> Cons	sultants working with the Joint Committ	ee on Education	<u>nal</u>	
28	Adequacy reported nat	tional research that indicates student	performance is		
29	improved by the reduc	ction of teacher-student ratios;			
30	<u>(2)</u> A re	eduction in the teacher-student ratio w	ill require a		
31	significant increase	in funding; and			
32	<u>(3)</u> Befo	ore making a decision to lower the teac	her-student rat	tio	
33	<u>in Arkansas, sufficie</u>	ent information should be available to	allow the Gener	ral	
34	Assembly to determine	whether such a reduction would justif	y the added		
35	dollars required.				
36	<u>(b) The pilot</u>	program is intended to determine the i	<u>mpact that</u>		



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1	reducing the teacher-student ratio would have on grades kindergarten through		
2	three (K-3), four through eight (4-8), and nine through twelve (9-12)		
3	respectively.		
4			
5	6-15-103. Pilot project Teacher-student ratios.		
6	(a) During the 2004-2005 school year, the Department of Education		
7	shall establish three (3) pilot programs to study the educational effects of		
8	reducing teacher-student ratios in, respectively, grades:		
9	(1) Kindergarten through three (K-3);		
10	(2) Four through eight (4-8); and		
11	(3) Nine through twelve (9-12).		
12	(b)(1) The Department of Education shall select sixteen (16)		
13	elementary schools for the pilot project for grades kindergarten through		
14	three (K-3) to determine the impact of reducing teacher-student ratios to one		
15	(1) teacher for each fifteen (15) students.		
16	(2) The Department of Education shall select four (4) schools		
17	from each congressional district with the following characteristics:		
18	(A) One (1) school in each congressional district from a		
19	school district with each of the following enrollment categories:		
20	(i) Five thousand (5,000) or more students;		
21	(ii) One thousand five hundred (1,500) to four		
22	thousand nine hundred ninety-nine (4,999) students;		
23	(iii) Seven hundred fifty (750) to one thousand four		
24	hundred ninety-nine (1,499) students; and		
25	(iv) Below seven hundred fifty (750) students;		
26	(B) At least two (2) classes at each grade from grades		
27	kindergarten through three (K-3); and		
28	(C) Pilot and control classes composed of substantially		
29	equal percentages of students who:		
30	(i) Qualify for free or reduced-lunch fees; or		
31	(ii) Are below two hundred percent (200%) of the		
32	federal poverty level.		
33	(c)(1) The Department of Education shall select eight (8) schools for		
34	the pilot project for grades four through eight $(4-8)$ to determine the impact		
35	of reducing teacher-student ratios in the areas of English and mathematics to		
36	one (1) teacher for each twenty (20) students.		

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1	(2) The Department of Education shall select four (4) schools
2	from each congressional district with the following characteristics:
3	(A) One (1) school in each congressional district from a
4	school district with each of the following enrollment categories:
5	(i) Five thousand (5,000) or more students to one
6	thousand five hundred (1,500); and
7	(ii) Fewer than one thousand four hundred ninety
8	nine (1,499) students;
9	(B) At least two (2) classes at each grade from grades
10	four through eight (4-8); and
11	(C) Pilot and control classes composed of substantially
12	equal percentages of students who:
13	(i) Qualify for free or reduced-lunch fees; or
14	(ii) Are below two hundred percent (200%) of the
15	federal poverty level.
16	(d)(l)(A) The Department of Education shall select eight (8) schools
17	for the pilot project for grades nine through twelve (9-12) to determine the
18	impact of reducing teacher-student ratios in the areas of English and
19	mathematics to one (1) teacher for each twenty (20) students.
20	(B) The Department of Education shall determine the
21	specific course and grade levels to be studied in the pilot project.
22	(2) The department shall select two (2) schools from each
23	congressional district ratios with the following characteristics:
24	(A) One (1) school in each congressional district from a
25	school district with each of the following enrollment categories:
26	(i) Five thousand (5,000) or more students to one
27	thousand five hundred (1,500); and
28	(ii) Fewer than one thousand four hundred ninety
29	nine (1,499) students;
30	(B) At least two (2) classes at each grade from grades
31	nine through twelve (9-12); and
32	(C) Pilot and control classes composed of <i>substantially</i>
33	equal percentages of students who:
34	(i) Qualify for free or reduced-lunch fees; or
35	(ii) Are below two hundred percent (200%) of the
36	federal poverty level.

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1	(e)(1) The Department of Education shall consult with the Department			
2	of Higher Education to select one (1) Arkansas university to assist and study			
3	the pilot project schools in each congressional district.			
4	(2)(A) Each selected university shall appoint a qualified			
5	faculty member or graduate student to represent the university in the pilot			
6	project.			
7	(B) Each selected university shall provide the selected			
8	faculty member or graduate student with sufficient release time to assist			
9	effectively in the project.			
10	(f)(1) After the pilot project schools and universities have been			
11	selected, the Department of Education shall convene a meeting of persons from			
12	each school and university to outline the pilot research project.			
13	(2) The meeting shall be held during the summer of 2004 to			
14	prepare for the 2004-2005 school year.			
15	(3) In consultation with the Department of Education, the			
16	research group shall outline the details of a pilot program that will meet			
17	research standards necessary to draw valid conclusions based on the outcome			
18	data from the project.			
19	(4) During the project year, the research groups may meet as the			
20	members deem necessary.			
21	(g)(l)(A) Each university shall prepare a report on the pilot project			
22	for the public schools under study by that university.			
23	(B)(i) Early in the project year, the pilot project			
24	schools and universities shall design a format for the reports.			
25	(ii) The final report from all schools shall employ			
26	the format designed under subdivision (g)(l)(B)(i) of this section.			
27	(2) The Department of Education shall compile a summary report			
28	covering all the pilot project schools.			
29	(h) On or before September 1, 2005, the Department of Education shall			
30	report the results of the pilot project to the Governor, the State Board of			
31	Education, the Legislative Council, and the House and Senate Interim			
32	Committees on Education.			
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34	/s/ Elliott, et al			
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