

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003
4

As Engrossed: S2/2/04
A Bill

Call Item 4

HOUSE BILL 1072

5 By: Representative Cleveland
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE A PILOT PROGRAM TO STUDY THE
10 EFFECT OF REDUCING TEACHER-STUDENT RATIOS; AND
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO CREATE A PILOT PROGRAM TO
15 STUDY THE EFFECT OF REDUCING TEACHER-
16 STUDENT RATIOS.
17
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15 Subchapter 1 is amended
22 to add two additional sections to read as follows:

23 6-15-102. Findings - - Purpose.

24 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

25 (1) Consultants working with the Joint Committee on Educational
26 Adequacy reported national research that indicates student performance is
27 improved by the reduction of teacher-student ratios from one-to-twenty to
28 one-to-eighteen and from one-to-twenty to one-to-fifteen;

29 (2) A reduction in the teacher-student ratio will require a
30 significant increase in funding; and

31 (3) Before making a decision to lower the teacher-student ratio
32 in Arkansas, sufficient information should be available to allow the General
33 Assembly to determine whether such a reduction would justify the added
34 dollars required.

35 (b) The pilot program is intended to determine the impact that
36 reducing the teacher-student ratio from one-to-twenty to one-to-eighteen and



1 from one-to-twenty to one-to-fifteen would have on grades kindergarten
2 through three (K-3).

3
4 6-15-103. Pilot project - - Teacher-student ratios.

5 (a) During the 2004-2005 school year, the Department of Education
6 shall establish a pilot program to study the educational effects of reducing
7 teacher-student ratios in grades kindergarten through three (K-3).

8 (b)(1)(A) The Department of Education shall select sixteen (16)
9 elementary schools for the pilot project.

10 (B) Eight (8) of the schools in the pilot project shall be
11 have its teacher-student ratios reduced to one-to-fifteen.

12 (C) Eight (8) of the schools in the pilot project shall be
13 have its teacher-student ratios reduced to one-to-eighteen.

14 (2) The Department of Education shall select four (4) schools
15 from each congressional district with the following characteristics:

16 (A) One (1) school in each congressional district from a
17 school district with each of the following enrollment categories:

18 (i) Five thousand (5,000) or more students;

19 (ii) One thousand five hundred (1,500) to four
20 thousand nine hundred ninety-nine (4,999) students;

21 (iii) Seven hundred fifty (750) to one thousand four
22 hundred ninety-nine (1,499) students; and

23 (iv) Below seven hundred fifty (750) students;

24 (B) At least two (2) classes at each grade from
25 kindergarten through three (K-3); and

26 (C) Pilot and control classes composed of identical
27 percentages of students who:

28 (i) Qualify for free or reduced-lunch fees; or

29 (ii) Are below two hundred percent (200%) of the
30 federal poverty level.

31 (c)(1) The Department of Education shall consult with the Department
32 of Higher Education to select one (1) Arkansas university to assist and study
33 the pilot project schools in each congressional district.

34 (2)(A) Each selected university shall appoint a qualified
35 faculty member or graduate student to represent the university in the pilot
36 project.

1 (B) Each selected university shall provide the selected
2 faculty member or graduate student with sufficient release time to assist
3 effectively in the project.

4 (d)(1) After the pilot project schools and universities have been
5 selected, the Department of Education shall convene a meeting of persons from
6 each school and university to outline the pilot research project.

7 (2) The meeting shall be held during the summer of 2004 to
8 prepare for the 2004-2005 school year.

9 (3) In consultation with the Department of Education, the
10 research group shall outline the details of a pilot program that will meet
11 research standards necessary to draw valid conclusions based on the outcome
12 data from the project.

13 (4) During the project year, the research groups may meet as the
14 members deem necessary.

15 (e)(1)(A) Each university shall prepare a report on the pilot project
16 for the public schools under study by that university.

17 (B)(i) Early in the project year, the pilot project
18 schools and universities shall design a format for the reports.

19 (ii) The final report from all schools shall employ
20 the format designed under subdivision (e)(1)(A)(i) of this section.

21 (2) The Department of Education shall compile a summary report
22 covering all the pilot project schools.

23 (f) On or before September 1, 2005, the Department of Education shall
24 report the results of the pilot project to the Governor, the State Board of
25 Education, the Legislative Council, and the House and Senate Interim
26 Committees on Education.

27
28 */s/ Cleveland*
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36