

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

Call Item 4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1072

5 By: Representative Cleveland  
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## 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.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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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;

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



1 would have on grades kindergarten through three (K-3).

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

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

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

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

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

- 13 (i) Five thousand (5,000) or more students;
- 14 (ii) One thousand five hundred (1,500) to four  
 15 thousand nine hundred ninety-nine (4,999) students;
- 16 (iii) Seven hundred fifty (750) to one thousand four  
 17 hundred ninety-nine (1,499) students; and

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

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

21 (C) Pilot and control classes composed of identical  
 22 percentages of students who:

- 23 (i) Qualify for free or reduced-lunch fees; or
- 24 (ii) Are below two hundred percent (200%) of the  
 25 federal poverty level.

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

29 (2)(A) Each selected university shall appoint a qualified  
 30 faculty member or graduate student to represent the university in the pilot  
 31 project.

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

35 (d)(1) After the pilot project schools and universities have been  
 36 selected, the Department of Education shall convene a meeting of persons from

1 each school and university to outline the pilot research project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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