

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1987

HOUSE BILL 1438

By: Representatives Wade, M.Wilson, Willems et al.

"AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE QUALITY EDUCATION ACT OF 1983, AND THE QUALITY EDUCATION STANDARDS PROMULGATED THEREUNDER, WITH RESPECT TO KINDERGARTEN CLASS SIZE RATIO, ELEMENTARY COUNSELLORS AND SCHOOL NURSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Irrespective of the minimum standards promulgated by the State Board of Education for accrediting elementary and secondary public schools in this State under the provisions of the Quality Education Act of 1983, no school district shall be deemed in violation of the Quality Education standards that fails to employ elementary school counsellors, as required in said standards, or fails to employ a school nurse, as required in said standards. Provided that nothing in this Act shall be deemed to prohibit a school district from employing elementary school counsellors or a school nurse. No district shall be deemed in violation of the minimum standards of the Quality Education Act which apply to kindergarten class size ratio if, on the opening day of school, the kindergarten class size ratio of the school does not exceed twenty three (23) students per kindergarten teacher.

SECTION 2. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that school districts failing to meet the minimum standards for accrediting elementary and secondary public schools in this State by June 1, 1987, will face penalties under the Quality Education Act of 1983; that standards promulgated for kindergarten class size are in need of modification; that the requirements for the employment of elementary counsellors would impose undue burdens on the public schools that are not critical to the educational

standards of the school; and that the employment of school nurses is a requirement that should not result in a school district losing its rating under the Quality Education standards if all other requirements are met; and that the immediate passage of this Act is necessary to clarify and restrict the application of such standards as promulgated by the State Board of Education, and that said Act must be effective before the June 1, 1987 deadline. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

