

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003  
4  
5 By: Representatives Elliott, Cleveland  
6  
7

*As Engrossed: H12/23/03 H1/9/04*

Call Item 4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1063

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THREE (3) PILOT PROGRAMS TO  
10 STUDY THE EFFECT OF REDUCING TEACHER-STUDENT  
11 RATIOS IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN *THROUGH* TWELVE (K-  
12 12); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO CREATE THREE (3) PILOT  
16 PROGRAMS TO STUDY THE EFFECT OF REDUCING  
17 TEACHER-STUDENT RATIOS IN GRADES  
18 KINDERGARTEN *THROUGH* TWELVE (K-12).  
19  
20

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

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

25 6-15-102. Findings -- Purpose.

26 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

27 (1) Consultants working with the Joint Committee on Educational  
28 Adequacy reported national research that indicates student performance is  
29 improved by the reduction of teacher-student ratios;

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

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

36 (b) The pilot program is intended to determine the impact that



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.

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)(1)(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 substantially  
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.

