

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

Call Item 3

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1073

5 By: Representative Cleveland
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR A PILOT
10 PROGRAM TO STUDY THE EFFECT OF REDUCING TEACHER-
11 STUDENT RATIOS IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH
12 THREE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE
13 REMAINDER OF THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30,
14 2005; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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17 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
18 APPROPRIATION FOR A PILOT PROGRAM TO
19 STUDY REDUCING K-3 TEACHER-STUDENT
20 RATIOS.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - TEACHER-STUDENT RATIO PILOT STUDY. There is
27 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the
28 Department of Education Public School Fund Account, for grants and aid in the
29 amount of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) each to thirty two (32) elementary
30 schools and grants and aid in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)
31 each to four (4) Arkansas Universities for costs associated with the Pilot
32 Program to Study the Effect of Reducing Teacher-Student Ratios in grades
33 kindergarten through three, for the remainder of the biennial period ending
34 June 30, 2005 the sum of \$2,120,000.
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36 SECTION 2. DISBURSEMENT CONTROLS. (A) No contract may be awarded nor



1 obligations otherwise incurred in relation to the project or projects
 2 described herein in excess of the State Treasury funds actually available
 3 therefor as provided by law. Provided, however, that institutions and
 4 agencies listed herein shall have the authority to accept and use grants and
 5 donations including Federal funds, and to use its unobligated cash income or
 6 funds, or both available to it, for the purpose of supplementing the State
 7 Treasury funds for financing the entire costs of the project or projects
 8 enumerated herein. Provided further, that the appropriations and funds
 9 otherwise provided by the General Assembly for Maintenance and General
 10 Operations of the agency or institutions receiving appropriation herein shall
 11 not be used for any of the purposes as appropriated in this act.

12 (B) The restrictions of any applicable provisions of the State Purchasing
 13 Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue
 14 Stabilization Law and any other applicable fiscal control laws of this State
 15 and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration,
 16 as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of any
 17 funds provided by this act unless specifically provided otherwise by law.

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 19 SECTION 3. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized
 20 by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds
 21 made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the
 22 restrictions of the State Purchasing Law, the General Accounting and
 23 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
 24 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
 25 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
 26 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
 27 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

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 29 SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly
 30 that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations contained
 31 in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for which this act
 32 was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive Recommendations
 33 and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget manuals prepared by
 34 the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or summarized oral
 35 testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative Council or
 36 Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

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SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that a pilot study is necessary to ensure that reducing the teacher-student ratio from one-to-twenty to one-to-fifteen in grades kindergarten through three actually improves student performance before committing millions of dollars to reduce the ratio without knowing the effect it would have in Arkansas schools. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval. If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective on the date the last house overrides the veto.