

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 211

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION: Limits class size and requires two teachers in kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:174(A) and (B) and to repeal R.S. 17:174(C), relative to
3 requirements for kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms; to limit class size;
4 to provide relative to required teaching staff; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:174(A) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
7 follows:

8 §174. Class size; maximum; number of teachers

9 A.(1) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, ~~on and after September~~
10 ~~15, 1986~~, the number of students in any class, except physical education classes, in
11 kindergarten through ~~third~~ fourth grade in any ~~public city or parish~~ city, parish, or
12 other local public school system shall not exceed ~~twenty~~ fifteen ~~except physical~~
13 ~~education classes~~, unless otherwise specifically authorized in writing by the ~~State~~
14 ~~Superintendent of Education~~ superintendent of education based upon regulations
15 adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Such
16 authorization shall be granted only on an individual basis with respect to each class.

17 B.(2) No student above the maximum established ~~herein~~ in this Subsection
18 shall be counted for purposes of determining the amount of funding or the allocation
19 of teachers or administrators under the minimum foundation program formula for
20 which provision is made in R.S. 17:7(2).

1 B. At a minimum, two teachers shall be assigned to every kindergarten
2 through fourth grade class, one qualified and designated to teach math and science
3 and the other qualified and designated to teach English language arts.

4 Section 2. R.S. 17:174(C) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Harrison

HB No. 211

Abstract: Limits class size for kindergarten through 4th grade in public schools to 15 students and requires that two teachers be assigned to such classes.

Present law, to become effective and be implemented only upon appropriation of funds for the purpose, limits the number of students in any kindergarten through 3rd grade class in a local public school system to 20. Excepts physical education classes from this requirement. Provides that the superintendent of education, based on regulations adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) may, on a class-by-class basis, authorize a larger class size.

Proposed law removes the subject to appropriation of funds limitation and, relative to kindergarten through 4th grade classes, limits class size to 15 students. Retains present law exception for physical education classes and authority for the superintendent to grant exceptions. Proposed law further provides that, at a minimum, two teachers shall be assigned to every kindergarten through 4th grade class, one qualified and designated to teach math and science and the other qualified and designated to teach English language arts.

(Amends R.S. 17:174(A) and (B); Repeals R.S. 17:174(C))