

SENATE BILL NO. 461

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:151(B), relative to public schools; to provide for pupil-  
3 classroom-teacher ratios; to provide for waivers; to provide for reporting  
4 requirements; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:151(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §151. Public schools; establishment by parish boards; pupil-classroom-teacher  
8 ratios

9 \* \* \*

10 B.(1) Except as otherwise provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection ~~and~~  
11 ~~effective with the 1989-1990 school year and thereafter~~, no parish or city school  
12 board shall have a systemwide pupil-classroom-teacher ratio in kindergarten through  
13 grade three in excess of twenty pupils to one classroom teacher.

14 ~~(2) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt~~  
15 ~~necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Subsection and~~  
16 ~~to assure compliance by parish and city school boards. Such rules and regulations~~  
17 ~~shall include, but not be limited to provisions whereby a parish or city school board~~  
18 ~~may request a limited waiver from the board from complying with the provisions of~~  
19 ~~this Subsection relative to pupil-classroom-teacher ratios. The board shall consider~~  
20 ~~granting such a request only upon a showing, in writing, by the particular parish or~~  
21 ~~city school board that it has made, is making, and will continue to make a good faith~~  
22 ~~effort to employ the necessary and appropriate personnel to meet the requirements~~  
23 ~~of this Subsection. Additionally, no such waiver shall be granted unless the parish~~  
24 ~~or city school system has submitted to and received the approval of the board of a~~  
25 ~~plan designed to bring the school system into full compliance with the provisions of~~  
26 ~~R.S. 17:151(B) by not later than the start of the 1992-1993 school year. Effective~~  
27 ~~with the 2012-2013 school year and thereafter, the State Board of Elementary~~

1           and Secondary Education shall adopt necessary rules and regulations to  
 2           implement the provisions of this Subsection to ensure compliance by city,  
 3           parish, and other local public school boards. Such rules and regulations shall  
 4           include but not be limited to provisions that allow a local public school board  
 5           to request a limited waiver from the state superintendent of education from  
 6           complying with the provisions of this Subsection relative to student-teacher  
 7           ratios, provided that the teacher has demonstrated effectiveness as defined by  
 8           the state board, pursuant to R.S. 17:3881 through 3905.

9                   (3) Not later than September first of each year, the Department of  
 10           Education shall submit a written report to the Senate Committee on Education  
 11           and the House Committee on Education detailing all waiver requests submitted  
 12           by city, parish, and other local public school boards for the prior school year  
 13           and the disposition of each request.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_