

## **Appendix A.**

### **Legislation**

**House Bill NO. 544**

**By Bill Cobb**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 799**

**By Lewis**

An act to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 3, relative to incentives for class size reductions.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 3, is amended by adding a new Part 4, as follows:

49-3-401. In order to study the effects of reduced pupil-teacher ratio on the achievement of students in public schools, there is hereby created a demonstration project in which demonstration centers are established in varied environments across Tennessee, to be staffed as set out in this part.

49-3-402. The demonstration centers shall be established and operated under guidelines recommended by the commissioner of education and approved by the state board of education. The guidelines shall include, but not be limited to the following:

(1) Demonstration centers, to be operated by the local boards of education, shall be established in inner city schools, in urban schools, in suburban schools, and in rural schools.

(2) Demonstration centers shall be established in the three grand divisions of the state of Tennessee.

(3) Every class in the teacher/pupil ratio demonstration project shall have a maximum enrollment of seventeen (17); if the enrollment should decrease below 13 through loss of students, additional pupils may be added at the beginning of each six weeks grading period to bring the enrollment up to thirteen (13).

(4) Different models may be authorized to study and measure the relative effects of providing planning teachers, staff development programs for teachers, the use of teachers aides, the use of teachers with various levels of training and experience and other concepts approved by the board.

49-3-403. Approximately two hundred (200) teaching positions, as determined by the commissioner of education, shall be utilized and funded in the demonstration centers. All cost for these teacher shall be borne by the state department of education, including the local salary supplement otherwise required by law to be paid from local funds, but not including fringe

benefits to other teachers in the local school system are entitled. Every teacher in a demonstration project under this part shall receive the same compensation, given his training, experience, and certification, as he would otherwise receive as a regular teacher, in the local school system. No demonstration teacher shall receive less instructional support and supplies than teachers not in demonstration projects at the same grade level in the same school system. The local education agencies participating in the demonstration shall provide space for the projects.

49-3-404. Five percent (5%) of the total appropriation for the demonstration project shall be allocated to the department of education for administrative costs. The commissioner of education may allocate to every local school system participating in this demonstration project an amount not exceeding five percent (5%) of the cost of the center for such system for administrative costs incurred in operating the center.

49-3-405. The purpose of the demonstration project created by this part is to make a longitudinal study of the relative effects of reduced pupil-teacher ratio on the achievement of pupils in accordance with the goals set by the general assembly in Section 49-5-5023. To this end all demonstration centers for the 1985-1986 school year shall be for kindergarten pupils. In the 1986-1987 school year, the demonstration centers shall be for these same pupils in the second grade, and in 1988-1989 for these same pupils in the third grade. The guidelines authorized by 49-3-402 may include provisions for the addition of pupils in to demonstration classes so that a teacher/pupil ratio as specified by this act may be maintained during the second and third years of the demonstration project. The study authorized herein may include the identification of a control group of pupils in the same school system for purposes of measuring differences in achievement and development of pupils in the demonstration center classes. The state department of education shall submit a plan for evaluating achievement of students to the state board of education for its approval and will implement the evaluation program in accordance with the adopted plan. The evaluation plan shall encompass the goals established by the general assembly in Section 49-5-5023. The state board of education shall submit to the general assembly annual reports of each project year and a final report of the results of the demonstration project.

49-3-406. Local school officials and employees shall assist the commissioner and state board of education in the study and reports provided in 49-3-405.

49-3-407. The teachers in the teacher/pupil ratio demonstration projects shall receive in-service training regarding effective ways to instruct students in small classes. The state department of education shall submit a teacher training plan to the state board of education for its approval and will implement the teacher training program in accordance with the adopted plan.

SECTION 2. This Act shall be implemented to the extent provided by funds annually appropriated for fiscal year 1985-1986, 1986-1987, 1987-1988, 1988-1989.

SECTION 3. This Act shall be implemented within the limits and provisions set out in the general appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect July 1, 1985, except that for purposes of developing guidelines it shall take effect on becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.