

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 616—COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

(ON BEHALF OF DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION—BUDGET DIVISION)

MARCH 26, 2001

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing class-size reduction program. (BDR 34-1321)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; authorizing school districts to develop alternative plans for the reduction of pupil-teacher ratios in certain grades; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1     **Section 1.** NRS 387.304 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2     387.304 The department shall:  
3     1. Conduct an annual audit of the count of pupils for apportionment  
4     purposes reported by each school district pursuant to NRS 387.123 and the  
5     data reported by each school district *pursuant to NRS 388.710* that is used  
6     to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of ~~the~~ a plan  
7     developed by each school district ~~to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio in~~  
8     ~~kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3,~~ as required by NRS ~~388.710.~~  
9     *388.720.*  
10    2. Review each school district's report of the annual audit conducted  
11    by a public accountant as required by NRS 354.624, and the annual report  
12    prepared by each district as required by NRS 387.303, and report the  
13    findings of the review to the state board and the legislative committee on  
14    education, with any recommendations for legislation, revisions to  
15    regulations or training needed by school district employees. The report by  
16    the department must identify school districts which failed to comply with  
17    any statutes or administrative regulations of this state or which had any:  
18    (a) Long-term obligations in excess of the general obligation debt limit;  
19    (b) Deficit fund balances or retained earnings in any fund;  
20    (c) Deficit cash balances in any fund;



1 (d) Variances of more than 10 percent between total general fund  
2 revenues and budgeted general fund revenues; or

3 (e) Variances of more than 10 percent between total actual general fund  
4 expenditures and budgeted total general fund expenditures.

5 3. In preparing its biennial budgetary request for the state distributive  
6 school account, consult with the superintendent of schools of each school  
7 district or a person designated by the superintendent.

8 4. Provide, in consultation with the budget division of the department  
9 of administration and the fiscal analysis division of the legislative counsel  
10 bureau, training to the financial officers of school districts in matters  
11 relating to financial accountability.

12 **Sec. 2.** NRS 388.700 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 388.700 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2, 3 and 6,  
14 after the last day of the first month of the school year, the ratio in each  
15 school district of pupils per class ~~in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3~~  
16 per licensed teacher designated to teach those classes full time ~~must not~~  
17 ~~exceed 15 to 1~~ in classes where core curriculum is taught ~~1~~ :

18 *(a) In kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3, must not exceed 15 to 1; or*

19 *(b) If a plan is developed by a school district pursuant to subsection 2*  
20 *of NRS 388.720, in grades 1 to 6, inclusive, must not exceed*  
21 *22 to 1.*

22 In determining this ratio, all licensed educational personnel who teach  
23 ~~in kindergarten or grade 1, 2 or 3~~ *a grade level specified in paragraph (a)*  
24 *or (b), as applicable for the school district,* must be counted except  
25 teachers of art, music, physical education or special education, counselors,  
26 librarians, administrators, deans and specialists.

27 2. A school district may, within the limits of any plan adopted pursuant  
28 to NRS 388.720, assign a pupil whose enrollment in a grade occurs after  
29 the last day of the first month of the school year to any existing class  
30 regardless of the number of pupils in the class.

31 3. The state board may grant to a school district a variance from the  
32 limitation on the number of pupils per class set forth in subsection 1 for  
33 good cause, including the lack of available financial support specifically  
34 set aside for the reduction of pupil-teacher ratios.

35 4. The state board shall, on or before February 1 of each odd-  
36 numbered year, report to the legislature on:

37 (a) Each variance granted by it during the preceding biennium,  
38 including the specific justification for the variance.

39 (b) The data reported to it by the various school districts pursuant to  
40 subsection 2 of NRS 388.710, including an explanation of that data, and  
41 the current pupil-teacher ratios per class in ~~in kindergarten and grades 1, 2~~  
42 ~~and 3~~ *the grade levels specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection*  
43 *1, as applicable, for each school district.*

44 5. The department shall, on or before November 15 of each year,  
45 report to the chief of the budget division of the department of  
46 administration and the fiscal analysis division of the legislative counsel  
47 bureau:

48 (a) The number of teachers employed;



1 (b) The number of teachers employed in order to attain ~~the~~ a ratio  
2 required by subsection 1;  
3 (c) The number of pupils enrolled; and  
4 (d) The number of teachers assigned to teach in the same classroom  
5 with another teacher or in any other arrangement other than one teacher  
6 assigned to one classroom of pupils,  
7 during the current school year in ~~kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3~~ *the*  
8 *grade levels specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection 1, as*  
9 *applicable*, for each school district.  
10 6. The provisions of this section do not apply to a charter school.  
11 **Sec. 3.** NRS 388.710 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
12 388.710 1. The state board, in consultation with the trustees of the  
13 school districts and the recognized associations representing licensed  
14 educational personnel, after receiving comments from the general public,  
15 shall determine the data that must be monitored by each school district and  
16 used to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of ~~the~~ a plan  
17 developed by each school district ~~to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio per~~  
18 ~~class in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3.~~  
19 *pursuant to NRS 388.720.*  
20 2. Each school district shall report the data to the state board as  
21 required by the state board.  
22 **Sec. 4.** NRS 388.720 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
23 388.720 ~~Each~~  
24 *1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, each* school district  
25 together with the recognized associations representing licensed educational  
26 personnel shall develop a plan to reduce the district's pupil-teacher ratio  
27 per class in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3 within the limits of  
28 available financial support specifically set aside for this purpose and  
29 submit that plan to the state board.  
30 *2. In lieu of complying with the pupil-teacher ratio prescribed in*  
31 *paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 388.700, a school district may, in*  
32 *consultation with the recognized associations representing licensed*  
33 *educational personnel, develop a plan to reduce the district's pupil-*  
34 *teacher ratios per class in grades 1 to 6, inclusive, to 22 to 1, within the*  
35 *limits of available financial support specifically set aside for the*  
36 *reduction of pupil-teacher ratios in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3.*  
37 *A plan developed pursuant to this subsection must be submitted to the*  
38 *state board.*  
39 **Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2001.

