

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 278—ASSEMBLYMEN ELLIOT ANDERSON, KIRKPATRICK, DIAZ, BENITEZ-THOMPSON, CARLTON; PAUL ANDERSON, ARAUJO, BUSTAMANTE ADAMS, CARRILLO, FLORES, HAMBRICK, JOINER, MUNFORD, NEAL, OHRENSCHALL, OSCARSON, SPIEGEL, SPRINKLE, SWANK AND THOMPSON

MARCH 13, 2015

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing class-size reduction. (BDR 34-749)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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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; requiring the Department of Education to develop certain policies, procedures and guidance related to class-size reduction; requiring the Legislative Auditor to conduct an audit concerning the use of money by each school district for the class-size reduction program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law provides that the ratio of pupils per licensed teacher in certain grades in elementary school must not exceed specified ratios. Any school district with a school that exceeds this ratio must request a variance from the State Board of Education. (NRS 388.700) Each school district must develop a plan to reduce the district's pupil-teacher ratio per class and submit quarterly reports with certain information related to the district's pupil-teacher ratios to the Department of Education. (NRS 388.720, 388.725) **Section 1** of this bill requires the Department to develop policies and procedures to: (1) monitor the plans developed by each school district; (2) monitor the quarterly reports submitted by each school district; (3) review any variance requested by a school district; and (4) distribute any money to school districts for the reduction of pupil-teacher ratios. **Section 1** also requires the Department to develop guidance for school districts on: (1) developing a plan to reduce pupil-teacher ratios; (2) reporting information related to the reduction of pupil-teacher ratios; and (3) the data that must be monitored by each school district to measure the effectiveness of a plan to reduce pupil-teacher ratios. **Section 1** further requires the Department to communicate with the school districts regarding



the expectations of the Department for the use of any money distributed to reduce pupil-teacher ratios, including the minimum number of teachers each school district is expected to employ.

Section 2 of this bill requires the Legislative Auditor to conduct an audit concerning the use by each school district of money appropriated for the class-size reduction program during the 2013-2015 biennium. The audit must include an examination and analysis of the "plus two" program that authorized school districts to elect to increase class size by two pupils.

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

Section 1. Chapter 388 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

The Department shall:

1. Develop policies and procedures for:

(a) Monitoring the plan of each school district to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio per class developed pursuant to NRS 388.720, which must include, without limitation, provisions for:

(1) The review of each plan submitted to the State Board to ensure the adequacy of such plans; and

(2) The review of any data submitted to the State Board pursuant to NRS 388.710.

(b) Monitoring the quarterly reports concerning the average daily attendance of pupils and the pupil-teacher ratios in each school district submitted by the board of trustees of the school district pursuant to NRS 388.725 to ensure the completeness and accuracy of such reports.

(c) The review of any requests for a variance submitted to the State Board pursuant to NRS 388.700, which must include, without limitation, provisions to verify the information in such requests to ensure the accuracy of the reports on variances submitted by the State Board to the Legislature pursuant to that section.

(d) The distribution of money to each school district for the reduction of pupil-teacher ratios, which must include, without limitation, provisions for:

(1) The retention of all documents and records related to the distribution; and

(2) The review of the work performed to determine the distribution of such money to ensure the accuracy of supporting information and the calculations used in making such determinations.

2. Provide guidance to the school districts on:



(a) *The development of a plan to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio per class pursuant to NRS 388.720. In developing such guidance, the Department shall:*

(1) *Outline the criteria that each plan must include to meet the requirements of NRS 388.720.*

(2) *Provide examples of policies, plans or strategies adopted by other states to reduce class sizes.*

(b) *The requirements for reporting information related to the reduction of pupil-teacher ratios.*

(c) *The data that must be monitored pursuant to NRS 388.710 by each school district and used to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of any plan to reduce pupil-teacher ratios.*

3. *Communicate with the board of trustees of each school district regarding the expectations of the Department for the use of any money distributed to reduce pupil-teacher ratios in the school district, including, without limitation, the minimum number of teachers the school district is expected to employ.*

Sec. 2. 1. The Legislative Auditor shall conduct an audit concerning the use by each school district of the money appropriated for the class-size reduction program during the 2013-2015 biennium. The audit must include an examination and analysis of the program authorizing school districts to elect to increase class sizes by two pupils.

2. The Legislative Auditor shall present a final written report of the audit to the Audit Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission not later than February 6, 2017.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

