

HOUSE BILL NO. 98

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS

Introduced: 2/12/25

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to a maximum pupil-teacher ratio in public schools; relating to the**
2 **duties of school districts and governing bodies of school districts; and providing for an**
3 **effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Sec. 14.03.065. Maximum effective class size.** (a) Except for an art, library,
7 music, computer science, vocational-technical, honors-level, or physical education
8 course, the ratio of pupils to a teacher in a classroom in a public school may not
9 exceed 24 to one for grades kindergarten through three, 26 to one for grades four
10 through eight, and 28 to one for grades nine through 12.

11 (b) The pupil-teacher ratio required under this section does not apply

12 (1) during a fiscal year in which the governing body of a district
13 determines in writing that the legislature has not appropriated sufficient money to the
14 district to implement the requirements of this section; a decision of a governing body

1 under this paragraph is final and may not be appealed to the superior court;

2 (2) if the governing body of a district determines in writing that
3 compliance with the ratios under (a) of this section would hinder the ability of the
4 district to best educate its pupils, given available funding; or

5 (3) in a district with an average daily membership of 40,000 or fewer
6 students.

7 (c) A district shall, by February 1 of each year, provide notice to the public of
8 the average number of students in each classroom across each grade level at each
9 school in the district for the current school year on the district's Internet website.

10 (d) In this section,

11 (1) "average daily membership" has the meaning given in
12 AS 14.17.990;

13 (2) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990;

14 (3) "teacher" means a person who is certificated under AS 14.20.020
15 and who is a classroom teacher in a regular instructional program.

16 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.120 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

17 (k) A district shall, by February 1 of each year, report to the department the
18 district's ratio of pupils to a teacher in each grade for the current school year. The
19 district shall calculate the ratio using the average of the daily ratio taken over the same
20 period in October that is used to determine average daily membership under
21 AS 14.17.600 for the district.

22 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
23 read:

24 TRANSITION: RATIOS. Before July 1, 2028, notwithstanding AS 14.03.065,
25 enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, the ratio of pupils to a teacher in a class may be higher than the
26 ratio required under AS 14.03.065, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, if the actual number of
27 pupils in the present classroom has declined by two or more when compared to pupils in the
28 same classroom and grade in the previous school year.

29 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2025.