

Introduced: 3/18/81
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services and Finance

BY MILLER, BUCHHOLDT, CLOCKSIN,
COTTEN, GARDINER, HALFORD, DUNCAN,
BROWN AND PHILLIPS

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 353

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to school class size; and providing
7 for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 14.03 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 Sec. 14.03.150. MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE. (a) Except as provided in
11 (c) and (d) of this section, the number of pupils taught in a classroom
12 may not exceed 23 in kindergarten through third grade and 26 in fourth
13 through twelfth grade. The overall pupil to teacher ratio in a school
14 district or regional educational attendance area may not exceed 23
15 pupils to one teacher for kindergarten through third grade and 26
16 pupils to one teacher for fourth grade through twelfth grade.

17 (b) For purposes of this section the classroom size is determined
18 by using the average daily membership during a school year, adjusted by
19 the factors set out in AS 14.03.160.

20 (c) On written request of the chief administrator of a school and
21 the bargaining agent representing the certificated staff of that school,
22 the commissioner may increase the class size limits in this section by
23 up to 20 percent.

24 (d) Matters pertaining to class size and pupil to teacher ratio
25 shall be subjects for negotiation with a school board if negotiation is
26 requested by the bargaining agent representing the certificated staff
27 of the school district or regional educational attendance area. The
28 bargaining agent representing the certificated staff and the school
29 board may agree to a class size or a pupil to teacher ratio which

1 exceeds the limits prescribed in (a) and (c) of this section. If an
2 agreement relating to class size or pupil to teacher ratio reached as a
3 result of negotiations under this subsection results in a need for
4 additional money for staff, facilities, equipment, or materials, the
5 school district or regional educational attendance area is eligible for
6 supplemental programs under AS 14.17.061.

7 Sec. 14.03.160. CLASS SIZE ADJUSTMENTS FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

8 (a) Calculation of class size limits under AS 14.03.150 shall be
9 weighted for membership of exceptional children in a class. The follow-
10 ing schedule may be used as a guide to calculate class size limits when
11 the class contains exceptional children:

12	TYPE OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILD	CLASSROOM SIZE WEIGHTING FACTOR
13	(1) gifted	1.5
14	(2) learning disabled	2.0
15	(3) mentally retarded	2.0
16	(4) orthopedically handicapped	2.0
17	(5) visually impaired	2.0
18	(6) deaf or hearing impaired	2.0
19	(7) emotionally impaired	2.5
20	(8) subject to behavior disorder	2.5
21	(9) blind	2.5
22	(10) subject to perceptual or	
23	communication disorder	2.5
24	(11) hyperactive	2.5

25 (b) The maximum weighting factor for an exceptional child who has
26 more than one of the conditions set out in (a) of this section is 4.0.

27 (c) A school district or regional educational attendance area may
28 not place more than four exceptional children in a classroom with
29 children not designated as exceptional.

1 * Sec. 2. AS 14.20.550 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

2 (b) The school board of a school district or regional educational
3 attendance area and the bargaining agent representing the certificated
4 staff may negotiate as to

5 (1) class size; and

6 (2) pupil to teacher ratio.

7 * Sec. 3. AS 14.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

8 Sec. 14.20.562. CLASS SIZE TASK FORCE. (a) When a school board
9 and a bargaining agent agree to negotiate as to class size, the school
10 board of the school district or regional educational attendance area
11 may establish a class size task force consisting of members selected by
12 the board and an equal number of members selected by the bargaining
13 agent for the certificated staff of the district or attendance area.
14 The class size task force may apply the weighting factors in AS 14.03.-
15 160 to the children in membership in the school district or a regional
16 educational attendance area so as to adjust the classroom size limits.

17 (b) The class size task force shall recommend to the school board
18 of the district or the regional educational attendance area and the
19 bargaining agent

20 (1) maximum class sizes for different classroom programs of
21 the district or attendance area; and

22 (2) the use of classroom aides.

23 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1981.
24
25
26
27
28
29