

SB435

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: May 6, 1992

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 5/7/92

The FINANCE Committee considered:

CSSB 435(FIN)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 435 (FINANCE)

CLASS SIZE REDUCTION PROGRAM

"An Act establishing an elementary school class size reduction pilot program; and providing for an effective date."

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

be replaced with HCS CS SB 435 (HES)  the same title  
 a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: HOUSE HES letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) \_\_\_\_\_

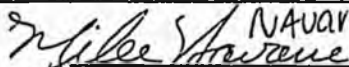
fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_

fiscal note(s) DOE 4/23/92

zero fiscal note \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<del>Eileen P. Maclean</del> <sup>MAAGLEAN</sup>	X	<del>Teresa Bennis</del> <sup>Bennis</sup>		X	
<del>Mike Navarre</del> <sup>NAVARRE</sup>	✓	<del>Sharon Phillips</del> <sup>Sharon Phillips</sup>		X	
<del>Mark Boyer</del> <sup>Boyer</sup>	X	<del>ROD E. ROO</del> <sup>Phillips</sup>		✓	
<del>Tan Brown</del> <sup>Brown</sup>	✓				
<del>Thomas Kopmen</del> <sup>Kopmen</sup>	✓				
<del>George Taylor</del> <sup>Taylor</sup>	X				
<del>Ronald J. Larson</del> <sup>Larson</sup>	X				
<del>A. Ulmer</del> <sup>Ulmer</sup>	X				

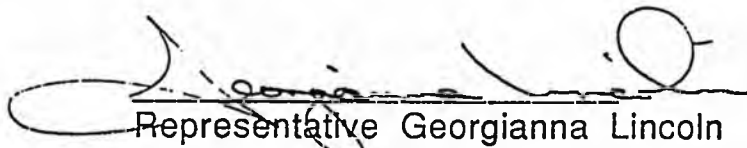
 <sup>NAVARRE</sup>  
 Mike Navarre Eileen P. Maclean  
 CO CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE Maclean

May 5, 1992

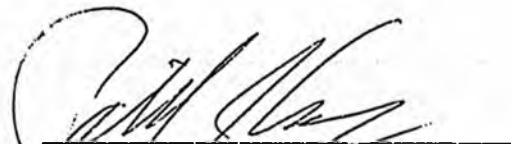
by the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee

Letter of Intent  
for  
HCS CSSB 435 (HES)

It is the intent of the legislature that existing rural and Bush schools should be included as a factor in the study.



Representative Georgianna Lincoln  
Co-Chair



Representative Pat Carney  
Co-Chair

FISCAL NOTE

No. 2

Bill Version: CSSB 435(FIN)

(S) Publish Date: 4-23-92

STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: 4/20/92  
Title: An Act establishing an elementary school class size reduction pilot program.  
Sponsor: Senators Cotten, Collins, Uehling  
Requestor: Senate Finance

Department Affected: Education  
BRU: EFSS  
Component: Foundation

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

0	1	4	1
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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL		20.0	10.0			
CONTRACTUAL	20.0	160.0	145.0	150.0		
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS		978.6	978.6	978.6	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	20.0	1,158.6	1,133.6	1,128.6	0	0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	20.0	1,158.6	1,133.6	1,128.6	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE:						
TOTAL	20.0	1,158.6	1,133.6	1,128.6	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0					
PART-TIME	0					
TEMPORARY	0					

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.) Attached.

Instructional units associated with the new funding communities were computed using the elementary table, AS 14.17.041(b)(1).

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans/Bill Wright  
Division: EFSS

Phone: 465-2865  
Date: 4/20/92

Approved by Commissioner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: Education

Jerry Covey  
Date: 4-21-92

over

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 SB 435 - PILOT PROGRAM FOR CLASSROOM SIZE REDUCTION  
 ELEMENTARY TABLE

4-15-92 File:SB435.XLS

	FY93 FOUNDATION ENTITLEMENT BEFORE	ENTITLEMENT AFTER NEW FUNDING COMM.	PRORATED TO \$59,917 NEW FUNDING COMM. INCREMENTAL UNITS HELD HARMLESS
ADAK	\$2,343,590	\$2,343,590	2,337,298
ALASKA GATEWAY	4,352,910	4,352,910	4,346,198
ALEUTIAN REGION	636,514	636,514	635,497
ALEUTIANS EAST	3,884,804	3,884,804	3,878,964
ANCHORAGE	176,971,662	177,359,262	177,057,448
ANNETTE ISLANDS	1,192,253	1,192,253	1,188,602
BERING STRAIT	13,162,733	13,162,733	13,130,886
BRISTOL BAY	1,886,485	1,886,485	1,882,554
CHATHAM	2,715,084	2,715,084	2,710,063
CHUGACH	1,746,910	1,746,910	1,744,315
COPPER RIVER	5,252,592	5,252,592	5,245,159
CORDOVA	2,383,793	2,383,793	2,379,655
CRAIG	2,070,013	2,070,013	2,066,824
DELTA/GREELY	4,714,966	4,714,966	4,707,186
DILLINGHAM	3,669,035	3,669,035	3,662,901
FAIRBANKS	62,247,271	62,449,471	62,345,721
GALENA	1,345,779	1,345,779	1,343,537
HAINES	2,236,367	2,236,367	2,232,595
HOONAH	1,539,688	1,539,688	1,537,333
HYDABURG	1,054,433	1,054,433	1,052,938
IDITAROD	4,658,556	4,658,556	4,651,200
JUNEAU	20,492,222	20,492,222	20,455,667
KAKE	1,136,238	1,136,238	1,134,351
KASHUNAMIUT	1,621,669	1,621,669	1,618,848
KENAI	40,543,658	40,738,058	40,662,394
KETCHIKAN	9,786,999	9,786,999	9,768,384
KLAWOCK	1,410,349	1,410,349	1,408,189
KODIAK	12,169,553	12,169,553	12,148,322
KUSPUK	5,107,998	5,107,998	5,100,311
LAKE AND PENINSULA	5,568,704	5,568,704	5,559,942
LOWER KUSKOKWIM	28,342,526	28,342,526	28,295,714
LOWER YUKON	10,641,779	10,641,779	10,621,510
MAT-SU	49,104,183	49,298,583	49,220,541
NENANA	1,518,737	1,518,737	1,516,547
NOME	5,004,802	5,004,802	4,997,099
NORTH SLOPE	8,740,719	8,740,719	8,721,340
NORTHWEST ARCTIC	12,012,703	12,012,703	11,989,682
PELICAN	562,796	562,796	561,942
PETERSBURG	3,082,048	3,082,048	3,076,773
PRIBILOF	1,462,713	1,462,713	1,460,099
RAILBELT	3,150,512	3,150,512	3,146,126
SITKA	6,882,972	6,882,972	6,870,552
SKAGWAY	847,639	847,639	846,118
SOUTHEAST	4,936,640	4,936,640	4,928,804
SOUTHWEST	5,366,976	5,366,976	5,357,723
ST. MARYS	1,240,055	1,240,055	1,238,268
TANANA	1,069,218	1,069,218	1,067,534
UNALASKA	1,679,250	1,679,250	1,675,819
VALDEZ	3,202,342	3,202,342	3,195,877
WRANGELL	2,446,344	2,446,344	2,442,213
YAKUTAT	1,098,482	1,098,482	1,096,835
YUKON FLATS	4,610,400	4,610,400	4,603,288
YUKON/KOYUKIJK	5,801,252	5,801,252	5,791,599
YUPIIT	3,874,216	3,874,216	3,667,804
<b>SUB - TOTALS</b>	<b>\$664,382,132</b>	<b>\$665,360,732</b>	<b>664,391,087</b>
STATE CORR. STUDY	5,469,360	5,469,360	5,461,794
MT. EDGEUMBE SCHOOL	1,709,384	1,709,384	1,707,216
VALDEZ CONTRACT	600,000	600,000	600,000
4 MILL PHASE-IN (SUBSIDY)	0	0	0
PL81-874 PASS THRU	1,277,192	1,277,192	1,277,192
EST. PRIOR YEAR ADJ.	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
<b>FY93 EST. INCREASES</b>	<b>\$574,138,008</b>	<b>\$575,916,668</b>	<b>\$574,937,280</b>

1) ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS: ORION - ANCHORAGE, EAGLE RIVER - ANCHORAGE,  
 UNIVERSITY PARK - FAIRBANKS, REDOUBT - KENAI, IDITAROD - MAT-SU

2 of 2

Fiscal Impact Analysis  
SB 435

Department of Education Costs

FY93 costs: \$20,000

- 1) Contractual costs to conduct on-site evaluation design and application packet: \$20,000.

FY94 costs: \$180,000

- 1) Contractual costs to draft regulations, advertise public notices concerning regulations, printing and distribution, conduct on-site evaluation at each selected site and prepare first year report: \$160,000.

- 2) Travel costs to each site two times: \$20,000.

FY95 costs: \$155,000

- 1) Contractual costs to conduct on-site evaluations at each selected site and prepare second year report: \$145,000.

- 2) Travel cost to each site one time: \$10,000.

FY96 costs: \$150,000

- 1) Contractual cost to conduct on-site evaluations at each selected site and prepare final report with conclusions and recommendations: \$150,000.

IMPACT TO FOUNDATION FORMULA: \$972,000

Assumes:

- 1) Elementary school chosen is not already a funding community
- 2) Population is in excess of 200
- 3) Area differential is 1

School Construction costs:

- 1) The average cost per classroom in a new facility is approximately \$350,000. constructed as an addition, approximately \$175,000.

- 2) If portable classrooms can be used, the costs are approximately \$70,000 per unit.

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 435 (HES)  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/6/92  
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS COTTEN, Collins, Uehling, Rodey, Sturgulewski, Menard

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing an elementary school class size reduction pilot program; and providing  
2 for an effective date."

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

4 \* Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds that

5 (1) there is a need for information regarding the effect of reducing the ratio of pupils to  
6 a teacher in public elementary school classes;

7 (2) preliminary research has shown that smaller classes have a positive effect on test  
8 scores, school discipline, and parent involvement in schools; and

9 (3) a four-year pilot program would allow the state to collect necessary information on  
10 the effects of reducing class size in public elementary schools.

11 (b) The purpose of this Act is to establish a program under which certain public elementary  
12 schools would reduce the size of their classes and over a four-year period the state would monitor the  
13 effect of the smaller class size on test scores, school discipline, teacher innovation, and parent  
14 involvement in education.

1 \* Sec. 2. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASS SIZE REDUCTION PROGRAM. (a) The elementary  
2 school class size reduction program is established in the Department of Education. The program shall  
3 include

4 (1) additional state aid provided under (e) of this section for a school in a district that  
5 is selected under (c) of this section;

6 (2) a program application and selection process determined by the department;

7 (3) the objectives of the elementary school size reduction program;

8 (4) a method to monitor and review the effects of a smaller class size on students in a  
9 school selected to participate in the program; a district selected to participate in the program shall report  
10 to the department annually by June 30 while participating in the program; and

11 (5) a certification by the chief school administrator that program funds will be separately  
12 accounted for.

13 (b) A district eligible under (c) of this section may apply to participate in the program by  
14 submitting an application on a form provided by the department. The application must include

15 (1) the objectives of the program and the district's plan for meeting those objectives;

16 (2) the district's plan for using increased state funds for the purpose of reducing the ratio  
17 of students to a teacher in certain schools;

18 (3) the existing ratio of students to a teacher in each elementary school in the district that  
19 the district is proposing for participation in the program;

20 (4) if available, the most recent standardized test scores for each grade in each school  
21 that is proposed for participation by the district; and

22 (5) a program to train teachers who participate in the class size reduction program.

23 (c) A district is eligible to propose an elementary school in the district for participation in the  
24 program described in this section if, prior to participation in the program, the average class ratio of  
25 students to a teacher in the elementary school is greater than 25 to 1. In this subsection, "average class  
26 ratio" means the average of those ratios taken from each class in the elementary school other than an  
27 art, typing, library, music, vocational-technical, or physical education class.

28 (d) The department may not select more than five elementary schools for participation in the  
29 program required under this section. A school selected to participate in the program required under this  
30 section shall

31 (1) participate until June 30, 1996;

1           (2) maintain a ratio of pupils to a teacher that does not exceed 15 to 1 in a class in  
2 grades K - 4; the pupil teacher ratio required under this paragraph does not apply during the final eight  
3 weeks of each school year; and

4           (3) endeavor to maintain a ratio of pupils to a teacher that does not exceed 20 to 1 in a  
5 class in grades 5 and 6.

6           (e) Each elementary school selected to participate in the program required under this section  
7 shall constitute a separate funding community for purposes of AS 14.17.031 and 14.17.041(b)(1). Money  
8 required to be expended under this subsection shall be included in the annual operating budget prepared  
9 by the department.

10          (f) The department shall include a report on the program established under this Act, as a part  
11 of the department's annual report.

12          (g) In this section,

13           (1) "department" means the Department of Education;

14           (2) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.250;

15           (3) "teacher" means a person who is certified under AS 14.20.020 and who is an actual  
16 classroom instructor in a regular instructional program.

17   \* Sec. 3. It is the intent of the legislature that funding for the program established under sec. 2 of  
18 this Act not be reduced if AS 14.17 is amended to change the formula providing state aid for education.

19   \* Sec. 4. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are repealed June 30, 1996.

20   \* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect July 1, 1992.

**POSITION PAPER: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Division Educational Program Support Bill Number SB 435

Bill Title An Act establishing an elementary school class size reduction pilot program

Sponsor Sen. Cotten, Sen. Uehling and Sen. Collins

Position Statement: Explain briefly what the bill does, its impacts and Department's position, i.e., a) support, b) do not support, c) neutral or d) oppose.

The Department of Education has been conceptually supportive of student-teacher ratio legislation, yet neutral in it's belief that specific ratios alone will achieve the results envisioned.

Reducing student-teacher ratios will have a significant impact on the foundation program as well as the resulting capital construction of additional classrooms. The Department has been neutral at best on legislation which either places additional financial burden on school districts or the foundation program and is resolutely endeavoring to maintain the Instructional Unit Value at \$60,000.

However, the Alaska 2000 Committee, which is currently working on ideas which will result in innovative approaches to educational reforms will most likely be supportive of a pilot project of this nature.

This bill should be amended to add a section which provides the Department authority to promulgate regulations.

APPROVED:

Director Ed Westlund Division Educational Program Support

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2-24-92

Commissioner/Deputy Jerry Covey

Signature *Jerry Covey* Date 2-24-92

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Eagle River, Alaska 99577  
(907) 694-6683

□ 3111 C Street, Suite 540  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
(907) 561-8459

□ State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3711

**SENATOR SAM COTTEN**

DATE: May 5, 1992

TO: Representative Mike Navarre  
Chairman, House Finance

FROM: Senator Sam Cotten 

RE: SB 435  
"An Act establishing an elementary school class size reduction pilot program; and providing for an effective date."

I would like to request you schedule SB 435 for hearing. This bill establishes a statewide pilot program to gather data on the benefits of lowering class size for elementary students. Some of the important points of the bill are as follows:

- **Lower Class Size**

The theory among educators and parents is lower class sizes, especially in the elementary grades, leads to a better education for children. With fewer pupils, a teacher is able to give more one-on-one attention to each student. This leads to better self-esteem, higher test scores, and fewer discipline problems. Teachers also are able to involve more parents in the child's education.

- **Need for Data Gathering**

While other states have conducted long-term studies to analyze the effects of small classes (Tennessee K-3 Class Size Study), Alaska needs to establish a pilot program to provide concrete data about the benefits of lower class size.

- **Four Year Pilot Program**

SB 435 establishes a pilot program to monitor the affects of reducing class size. Five schools may be selected statewide by DOE based on submission of an application. Eligible schools must have an average existing ratio of 25-1 (excluding art, typing, music, vocational-technical or physical education). Applications must include existing ratio, the most recent standardized test scores and the plan the school has for achieving the class reductions.

- **Program Cost**

Each school selected to participate in the program shall constitute a separate funding community in the school foundation formula. The estimate provided by DOE is \$972,000 and would be included in the annual operating budget prepared by the department. The fiscal note provided by DOE is \$20,000 for FY 93 to implement the program.

- **Reporting**

The schools are required to report annually to the Department. That information will be included in the Department's annual report.

The legislation has support from the Department of Education, NEA-Alaska, the Association of Alaska School Boards and the Association of School Administrators.

I appreciate your consideration.

Red McCoy  
7749 Old Harbor  
Clarks, Ak 99504  
337-6138

Dear Sam Cotton and Julie,

I support your efforts to bring greater awareness of the importance and effectiveness of class size to our public.

Children in this generation need so much to share and discuss issues / values ~~in~~ for our changing culture. They need the thinking skills that come from effective discussion. They need the love-care-and-share.

We must have the funding to allow such good things to happen.

Thanks for your efforts.  
Red McCoy



ANCHORAGE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

4600 DeBarr Avenue  
P.O. Box 196614  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518-6614  
AREA CODE [907] 333-9561

SCHOOL BOARD

Sharon Richards  
President

Carol Stolpe  
Vice President

Darryl Jordan  
Clerk

Cabot Christianson  
Treasurer

Vince Casey

Walter T. Feathery

Theresa Obermeyer

SUPERINTENDENT

Thomas C. O'Rourke

February 24, 1992

Senator Sam Cotten  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Cotten:

During the school year of 1988-89 I was given support by the Administration of the Anchorage School District and the Anchorage School District's School Board to put together a program at Fairview Elementary School to lower class size. Whereas most schools in the Anchorage School District determined their staffing by a PTR ratio Fairview Elementary was able to look at actual class sizes. We were to keep our class sizes as close as possible to 15 students per teacher.

The following charts depict information pertaining to class sizes and gains made on the ITBS:

Average Class Size and ITBS Scores

Fall Percentile Scores

Year	Grade	# of Students	# of Teachers (F.T.E)	PTR	Grade	Rdg	LA	Math
1988-89	1-6	225	8	28:1	2	34	(N/T)	38
					3	36	N/T	29
					4	33	30	48
					5	22	(N/T)	22
					6	27	19	34
1989-90	1-6	232	13	17.8:1	2	30	38	50
					3	51	41	29
					4	36	30	25
					5	40	46	39
					6	63	36	62
1990-91	1-6	240	13	18.4:1	2	39	N/T	67
					3	51	58	69
					4	41	38	49
					5	50	N/T	56
					6	45	53	71
1991-92	K-6	350	19	18.4:1	2	38	N/T	76
					3	43	51	58
					4	54	58	69
					5	50	55	62
					6	47	50	64

- NOTES:
- 1991-92 - This is the first year that kindergarten was included in the reduced class size project (three kindergarten teachers).
  - The five additional F.T.E. from years 1988-89 to 1989-90 and 1990-91 were paid for by: A) 3 - F.T.E. Federal Funds, Chapter I; B) 2 - F.T.E. Anchorage School District supported.
  - Actual number of teachers for 1988-89 10 (2 Kindergarten Teachers, 1989-90 15 (2 Kindergarten Teachers)
  - ITBS scores reported are for the Fall testing period of each year.
  - N/T = Students not tested

### SCHOOLWIDE N.P.R. FALL AVERAGES

Year	Reading	Language Arts	Math	
1989-90	44.2	38.2	41	Start of 1st year of reduced class size project
1990-91	45.2	49.7	62.4	Start of 2nd year of project
1991-92	46.4	53.5	65.8	Start of 3rd year of project

Fall N.P.R. Averages four years prior to program versus second year averages.

### AVERAGE FALL N.P.R. SCORES SCHOOL AVERAGES

Year	Reading	Language Arts	Math
1986-87	31.6	N/T	30.5
1987-88	27.2	N/T	33.6
1988-89	30.4	24.5	34.2
1989-90	44.2	38.2	41.0
<hr/>			
Four Year Averages National Percentile Rank	33.4	31.4	34.8
1990-91	45.2	49.7	62.4
1991-92	46.4	53.5	65.8
<hr/>			
Two Year Average National Percentile Rank	45.8	51.6	64.1
Difference (+,-) of four year averages prior to project and two year averages after inception of project (Schoolwide averages)	33.4 45.8 +12.4	31.4 51.6 +20.2	34.8 64.1 +29.3
Percent Gain	Reading +37.1%	Language Arts +63.3%	Math +84.2%

As can be seen from this data, significant gains in academic achievement have been made since the inception of this reduced class size program. Other data to be looked at will include attendance rates, office referrals for discipline and parent participation.

## ATTENDANCE

Year	% Average Daily Attendance	Discipline Referrals
1985-86	Data not available	N/D
1986-87	93.9	395
1987-88	93.2	402
1988-89	92.4	375
1989-90	93.4	300
1990-91	92.9	215
1991-1992	95.3 to date (2/9/92)	96

Although there are no accurate data for the numbers of parents participating at school. The sense is that there has been a significant improvement in the number of parents who are becoming actively involved at school.

I hope that this information is of use to you. On behalf of all the students who will benefit from your endeavor I wish you the best of luck. If I can be of further assistance to you please do not hesitate to call upon me (school/279-0671, home/344-4266).

I believe your proposal to pilot some projects to reduce class size is a sound one. I would encourage you to have several Anchorage Schools in your pilot. I would be interested in talking to you about this opportunity at a later date.

Thanks again for your efforts on behalf of the children of this State.

Sincerely,

*Eileen Jordan for David Combs*  
D. S. Combs, Principal

DSC:tg

cc Representative Bettye Davis