SB

435

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CS SB 435

Revision Date: 3-3-92
Title: Ar. Act establishing an elementary school class size reduction pilot program.
Sponsor: Sen. Cotten, Sen. Uehling and Sen. Collins
Requestor: (S) HESS

Department Affected: Education
BRU: Educational Program Support
Component: Data Management

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1 2 4 1

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						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	20.0	180.0	155.0	150.0		
CAPITAL						
REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	20.0	180.0	155.0	150.0		
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE:						
TOTAL	20.0	180.0	155.0	150.0		

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0		
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact:

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

See attached.

Prepared by: Bob Silverman
Phone: 465-2806
Division: Educational Program Support
Date: 3-3-92

Approved by Commissioner: Mike Mekelatos JC
Jerry Covey
Agency: Education
Date: 3-3-92

Distribution (by preparer): Leg. Fin., Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB/DBR, Gov. Legis. Ofc., & Impacted Agency(ies).
Rev 10/07/91

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.

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SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS	*	*	*			
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	200.0	155.0	155.0	150.0		
CAPITAL						
REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	200.0	155.0	155.0	150.0		
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE:						
TOTAL	200.0	155.0	155.0	150.0		

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0		
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

See attached.

Prepared by: Bob Silverman
Division: Educational Program Support

Phone: 465-2800
Date: 2-24-92

Approved by Commissioner: Mal Mellon for JC Jerry Covey
Agency: Education

Date: 2-24-92

Distribution (by preparer): Leg. Fin., Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB/DBR, Gov. Legis. Ofc., & Impacted Agency(ies).
Rev 10/07/91

Fiscal Impact Analysis
SB 435

Department of Education Costs

FY93 costs: $200,000

1) Contractual costs of regulation process, advertising for public notices concerning regulations, printing and distribution, public hearing: $15,000.

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

3) Contractual costs to conduct on-site evaluations at each selected site and prepare an interim report: $145,000.

4) Travel costs to each site two times: $20,000.

FY94 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.

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

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR SAM COTTEN

March 9, 1992

TO: Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Chairman, Senate HESS

FROM: Senator Sam Cotten

RE: CS SB 435 - Proposed Changes

Listed below are the major changes to SB 435, An Act establishing an elementary school class size reduction pilot program.

Page 1, Line 9 - Changes pilot program from three years to four years.

Page 2, Line 5 - Add "(3) the objectives of the elementary school class size reduction program."

Page 2, Line 9 - delete "an annual audit" and insert "a certification by the chief school administrator that program funds will be separately accounted for."

Page 2, Line 11 - Insert "(1) the objectives of the program and the district's plan for meeting those objectives."

Page 2, Line 19 - Insert "if available".

Page 2, Line 21 - Insert "(5) a program to train teachers who participate in the class size reduction program."

Page 2, Line 23 - Insert "average" before class ratio of students to a teacher in the elementary school is greater than 25 to 1.

Page 2, Line 30 - Insert "(2) maintain a ratio of pupils to a teacher that does not exceed 15 to 1 in a class in grades K-4; the pupil teacher ratio required under this paragraph does not apply during the final eight weeks of each school year; and (3) endeavor to maintain a ratio of pupils to a teacher that does not exceed 20 to 1 in a class in grades 5 and 6.

Page 3 Line 16 - Insert "Sec. 3. It is the intent of the legislature that funding for the program established under sec. 2 of this Act not be reduced if AS 14.7 is amended to change the formula providing state aid for education."

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SENATOR SAM COTTEN

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Chair
Senate Health, Education & Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator Sam Cotten

DATE: March 2, 1992

RE: Senate Bill 435
Elementary School Class Size Reduction Pilot Program

As we discussed, I have had drafted a proposed committee substitute for the captioned bill (see attached).

This proposed CS was prepared after meetings with the Department of Education and other interested parties. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would appreciate early consideration of this proposal.

cc: Senate HESS Members (w/attachment)

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SENATOR SAM COTTEN

February 24, 1992

TO: Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Chair
Senate Health, Education & Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator Sam Cotten

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

Thank you for scheduling SB 435 for a hearing tomorrow. SB 435 would establish a statewide pilot program to gather data on the benefits of lowering class size for elementary students. 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 affects 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 will be selected statewide by DOE based on submission of an application. Eligible schools must have an 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 rough estimate provided by DOE is $972,000 and would be included in the annual operating budget prepared by the department.

- **Reporting**

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

- **Amendments**

#1 Adds the class size criteria of 15-1 in grades K-3 and 20-1 in grades 4-6.

#2 Changes from a three-year to a four-year pilot program as suggested by the Department. It eliminates the annual audit requirement for each school and requires that funding provided for this program will be accounted for separately in DOE annual audit. Also included are minor language changes.

7-LS1985\A.1
Ford
02/19/92

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE SENATE BY SENATOR COTTEN

TO: SB 435

Page 2, line 26, after "shall":

Insert "(1)"

After "1995":

Insert "; and

(2) maintain a ratio of pupils to a teacher that does not exceed 15 to 1 in a class in grades K - 3 and 20 to 1 in a class in grades 4 - 6; the pupil teacher ratio required under this paragraph does not apply during the final eight weeks of each school year"

7-LS1985\A.2
Ford
02/21/92

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE SENATE BY SENATOR COTTEN

TO: SB 435

Page 1, line 9:

Delete "three-year"

Insert "four-year"

Page 1, line 12:

Delete "three-year"

Insert "four-year"

Page 2, following line 5:

Insert a new paragraph to read:

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

Renumber the following paragraphs accordingly.

Page 2, line 9:

Delete "an annual audit"

Insert "a certification by the chief school administrator that program funds will be separately accounted for"

Page 2, following line 11:

Insert a new paragraph to read:

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

Renumber the following paragraphs accordingly.

Page 2, line 12:

Delete "additional"

Insert "increased"

Page 2, line 17:

Delete ";"

Insert "."

Page 2, lines 18 -19:

Delete all material.

Page 2, line 26:

Delete "1995"

Insert "1996"

Page 2, line 27:

Delete "Those elementary schools"

Insert "Each elementary school"

Page 3, line 6:

Delete "1995"

Insert "1996"

7-LS1985\D
Ford
3/2/92

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 435 ( )

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS COTTEN, Collins, Uehling

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, and parent involvement in education.
14 * Sec. 2. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASS SIZE REDUCTION PROGRAM. (a) The elementary

1 school class size reduction program is established in the Department of Education. The program shall
2 include
3 (1) additional state aid provided under (e) of this section for a school in a district that
4 is selected under (c) of this section;
5 (2) a program application and selection process determined by the department;
6 (3) the objectives of the elementary school size reduction program;
7 (4) a method to monitor and review the effects of a smaller class size on students in a
8 school selected to participate in the program; a district selected to participate in the program shall report
9 to the department annually by June 30 while participating in the program; and
10 (5) a certification by the chief school administrator that program funds will be separately
11 accounted for.
12 (b) A district eligible under (c) of this section may apply to participate in the program by
13 submitting an application on a form provided by the department. The application must include
14 (1) the objectives of the program and the district's plan for meeting those objectives;
15 (2) the district's plan for using increased state funds for the purpose of reducing the ratio
16 of students to a teacher in certain schools;
17 (3) the existing ratio of students to a teacher in each elementary school in the district that
18 the district is proposing for participation in the program;
19 (4) if available, the most recent standardized test scores for each grade in each school
20 that is proposed for participation by the district; and
21 (5) a program to train teachers who participate in the class size reduction program.
22 (c) A district is eligible to propose an elementary school in the district for participation in the
23 program described in this section if, prior to participation in the program, the average class ratio of
24 students to a teacher in the elementary school is greater than 25 to 1. In this subsection, "average class
25 ratio" means the average of those ratios taken from each class in the elementary school other than an
26 art, typing, library, music, vocational-technical or physical education class.
27 (d) The department may not select more than five elementary schools for participation in the
28 program required under this section. A school selected to participate in the program required under this
29 section shall
30 (1) participate until June 30, 1996;
31 (2) maintain a ratio of pupils to a teacher that does not exceed 15 to 1 in a class in

1 grades K - 4; the pupil teacher ratio required under this paragraph does not apply during the final eight
2 weeks of each school year; and
3 (3) endeavor to maintain a ratio of pupils to a teacher that does not exceed 20 to 1 in a
4 class in grades 5 and 6.
5 (e) Each elementary school selected to participate in the program required under this section
6 shall constitute a separate funding community for purposes of AS 14.17.031. Money required to be
7 expended under this subsection shall be included in the annual operating budget prepared by the
8 department.
9 (f) The department shall include a report on the program established under this Act, as a part
10 of the department's annual report.
11 (g) In this section,
12 (1) "department" means the Department of Education;
13 (2) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.250;
14 (3) "teacher" means a person who is certified under AS 14.20.020 and who is an actual
15 classroom instructor in a regular instructional program.
16 * **Sec. 3.** It is the intent of the legislature that funding for the program established under sec. 2 of
17 this Act not be reduced if AS 14.17 is amended to change the formula providing state aid for education.
18 * **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are repealed June 30, 1996.
19 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1992.

POSITION PAPER
SB 435

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.