HB208

135238-1

By Representative Coleman

RFD: Ways and Means Education

First Read: 07-FEB-12
SYNOPSIS: Existing law does not limit the number of students per teacher in kindergarten to twelfth grade classrooms.

This bill would require that, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, class size limits be maintained at 15 students per teacher for grades kindergarten to third, inclusive, at 22 students per teacher for grades four to eight, inclusive, and at 25 students per teacher for grades nine to 12, inclusive. Such limits would be implemented on a graduated basis beginning with the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

This bill would also provide that any costs associated with satisfying the class size limitations imposed by this bill would be the responsibility of the state and not the local school systems.

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED
Relating to public education; to establish class size limits in grades kindergarten to 12, inclusive, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, to be phased in beginning with the 2013-2014 fiscal year; and to provide that any costs associated with satisfying the limits be the responsibility of the state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) To assure that children attending public schools obtain a high quality education, the Legislature shall make adequate provision to ensure that, by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so that:

(1) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for prekindergarten to grade 3, inclusive, does not exceed 15 students.

(2) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 4 to 8, inclusive, does not exceed 22 students.

(3) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 9 to 12, inclusive, does not exceed 25 students.

(b) The class size requirements of this section do not apply to extracurricular classes.
(c) Payment of the costs associated with reducing class size to meet the requirements of this section is the responsibility of the state and not of local school systems. Beginning with the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Legislature shall provide sufficient funds to reduce the average number of students in each classroom by at least two students per year until the maximum number of students per classroom does not exceed the requirements of this section.

Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.