

HOUSE BILL NO. 55

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERTTULA

Introduced: 1/20/09

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act imposing a maximum pupil-teacher ratio in public schools; and providing for**
2 **an effective date."**

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

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

5 **Sec. 14.03.065. Maximum effective class size.** (a) In a public school class,
6 other than an art, library, music, computer science, vocational-technical, or physical
7 education class, the ratio of pupils to a teacher may not exceed 18 to one in a class in
8 grades kindergarten through three, 20 to one in a class in grades four through six, and
9 25 to one in a class in grades seven through 12.

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

11 (1) during the final eight weeks of each school year; or

12 (2) in a fiscal year in which the legislature has not appropriated
13 sufficient money to implement the requirements of this section.

14 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in implementing the

1 requirements of (a) of this section, a governing body may

2 (1) alter the length of the school day or school year;

3 (2) provide additional classrooms in publicly or privately owned
4 buildings that satisfy health and safety requirements for schools;

5 (3) seek additional public or private funding for education in the
6 school district; or

7 (4) implement changes to the education program in the district that are
8 approved by the department.

9 (d) A district shall annually report to the department the district's ratio of
10 pupils to a teacher in each class if the district is required to meet the ratio set out in (a)
11 of this section. The ratio reported shall be the average of the daily ratio taken over the
12 same period in October that is used to determine average daily membership under
13 AS 14.17.600.

14 (e) In this section, "teacher" means a person to whom a teacher certification
15 has been issued under AS 14.20.020 and who is an actual classroom teacher in a
16 regular instructional program.

17 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
18 read:

19 TRANSITION. Before July 1, 2010, notwithstanding AS 14.03.065, enacted by sec. 1
20 of this Act, the ratio of pupils to a teacher in a class may be higher than the ratio required
21 under AS 14.03.065, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, if the actual number of pupils in the present
22 class has declined by two or more when compared to pupils in the same class and grade in the
23 previous school year.

24 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2009.