

## Second Regular Session

### Sixty-second General Assembly

LLS NO. 00-0635.02 Jeff Conway

HOUSE BILL 00-1213

## STATE OF COLORADO

BY REPRESENTATIVES Tupa, Gordon, Plant, Williams S., and  
Windels;  
also SENATOR Thiebaut.

### A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF CLASS SIZES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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#### Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Establishes the "Class-Size Reduction Act of 2000". Beginning July 1, 2001:

- Limits the average class size of core classes in elementary schools to 23 students and the size of any single core class to 25 students unless the state board has granted a waiver;
- Limits the average class size of core classes in middle schools and junior high schools to 25 students and the size of any single core class to 27 students unless the state board has granted a waiver; and
- Limits the average class size of core classes in senior high schools to 27 students and the size of any single core class to 30 students unless the state board has granted a waiver.

Defines core classes as those corresponding to first priority state model content standards in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, and geography.

Exempts from the act those core classes primarily taught by more than one teacher as part of a team-teaching strategy or a flexible configuration.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** Title 22, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended

3 BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE to read:



1 DEVELOPMENT, HEALTHIER SELF-CONCEPTS, AND GREATER INTEREST IN  
2 SCHOOL ON THE PART OF STUDENTS, AS WELL AS INCREASED MORALE OF  
3 TEACHERS.

4 (3) ACCORDINGLY, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY DETERMINES  
5 THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE AND BENEFICIAL TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE  
6 OF COLORADO TO IMPLEMENT CLASS-SIZE REDUCTIONS FOR ELEMENTARY,  
7 MIDDLE, AND JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES.

8 **22-85-103. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE  
9 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

10 (1) "AVERAGE CORE CLASS SIZE" MEANS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF  
11 STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN CORE CLASSES IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVIDED  
12 BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CORE CLASSES TAUGHT AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

13 (2) "CORE CLASS" MEANS A NON-ELECTIVE CLASS OFFERED IN A  
14 PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT CORRESPONDS WITH THE FIRST PRIORITY STATE  
15 MODEL CONTENT STANDARDS IN THE AREAS OF READING, WRITING,  
16 MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, HISTORY, OR GEOGRAPHY, AS DESCRIBED IN  
17 SECTION 22-7-406 (1) (a).

18 (3) "FULL REGULAR SCHOOL DAY" MEANS A SUBSTANTIAL  
19 MAJORITY OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL MINUTES PER SCHOOL DAY.

20 (4) "JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL" MEANS A PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL  
21 COMPRISED OF GRADES SEVEN THROUGH NINE.

22 (5) "MIDDLE SCHOOL" MEANS A PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL  
23 COMPRISED OF GRADES SIX THROUGH EIGHT.

24 (6) "SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL" MEANS A PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL  
25 COMPRISED OF EITHER GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE OR TEN THROUGH  
26 TWELVE.

1           (7) "TEACHER" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO  
2 ARTICLE 60.5 OF THIS TITLE OR AUTHORIZED BY A LETTER OF  
3 AUTHORIZATION ISSUED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-111, TO TEACH,  
4 AND IS PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN TEACHING DURING THE FULL REGULAR  
5 SCHOOL DAY.

6           **22-85-104. Class size reduction.** (1) (a) EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
7 2001, NO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE STATE SHALL HAVE AN  
8 AVERAGE CORE CLASS SIZE GREATER THAN TWENTY-THREE STUDENTS.

9           (b) EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001, NO PUBLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL OR  
10 JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE SHALL HAVE AN AVERAGE CORE CLASS  
11 SIZE GREATER THAN TWENTY-FIVE STUDENTS.

12           (c) EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001, NO PUBLIC SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN  
13 THE STATE SHALL HAVE AN AVERAGE CORE CLASS SIZE GREATER THAN  
14 TWENTY-SEVEN STUDENTS.

15           (2) (a) EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS  
16 INCLUDED IN ANY SINGLE CORE CLASS TAUGHT AT A PUBLIC ELEMENTARY  
17 SCHOOL SHALL NOT EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE STUDENTS UNLESS THE STATE  
18 BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS GRANTED A WAIVER OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
19 PARAGRAPH (a) PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-117.

20           (b) EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED  
21 IN ANY SINGLE CORE CLASS TAUGHT AT A PUBLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL OR  
22 JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL SHALL NOT EXCEED TWENTY-SEVEN STUDENTS  
23 UNLESS THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS GRANTED A WAIVER OF THE  
24 PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH (b) PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-117.

25           (c) EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED  
26 IN ANY SINGLE CORE CLASS TAUGHT AT A PUBLIC SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

1 SHALL NOT EXCEED THIRTY STUDENTS UNLESS THE STATE BOARD OF  
2 EDUCATION HAS GRANTED A WAIVER OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
3 PARAGRAPH (c) PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-117.

4 (d) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION (2) SHALL NOT APPLY TO  
5 CLASSES PRIMARILY TAUGHT BY MORE THAN ONE TEACHER AS PART OF A  
6 TEAM TEACHING STRATEGY OR A FLEXIBLE TEACHING STRATEGY THAT  
7 UTILIZES TWO OR MORE TEACHERS SHARING A CLASSROOM, OR A  
8 MULTI-GRADE CLASSROOM, OR OTHER FLEXIBLE STUDENT  
9 CONFIGURATIONS WITHIN A CLASSROOM.

10 **SECTION 2. Effective date.** This act shall take effect at 12:01  
11 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after  
12 final adjournment of the general assembly that is allowed for submitting  
13 a referendum petition pursuant to article V, section 1 (3) of the state  
14 constitution; except that, if a referendum petition is filed against this act  
15 or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act,  
16 item, section, or part, if approved by the people, shall take effect on the  
17 date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the  
18 governor.