## Florida Senate - 2001

SB 1954

By Senator Rossin

35-815-01 A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to the small-school 3 requirement; amending s. 235.2157, F.S.; eliminating the requirement that schools other 4 5 than elementary schools must not exceed a б specified student population; providing an 7 effective date. 8 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 10 11 Section 1. Section 235.2157, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 12 13 235.2157 Small school requirement.--14 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.--The Legislature finds that: 15 (a) Florida's schools are among the largest in the 16 nation. 17 (b) Smaller schools provide benefits of reduced 18 discipline problems and crime, reduced truancy and gang 19 participation, reduced dropout rates, improved teacher and 20 student attitudes, improved student self-perception, student academic achievement equal to or superior to that of students 21 22 at larger schools, and increased parental involvement. 23 (c) Smaller schools can provide these benefits while not increasing administrative and construction costs. 24 25 (2) DEFINITION.--As used in this section, "small 26 school" means+ 27 (a) an elementary school with a student population of 28 not more than 500 students. (b) A middle school with a student population of not 29 more than 700 students. 30 31 1

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1 (c) A high school with a student population of not 2 more than 900 students. 3 (d) A school serving kindergarten through grade 8 with 4 a student population of not more than 700 students. 5 (e) A school serving kindergarten through grade 12 б with a student population of not more than 900 students. 7 8 A school on a single campus which operates as a 9 school-within-a-school, as defined by s. 230.23(20), shall be 10 considered a small school if each smaller unit located on the 11 single campus meets the requirements of this subsection. 12 (3) REQUIREMENTS. --Beginning July 1, 2003, all plans for new 13 (a) 14 elementary schools educational facilities to be constructed 15 within a school district and reflected in the 5-year school district facilities work plan shall be plans for small schools 16 17 in order to promote increased learning and more effective use of school facilities. 18 19 (b) Small schools shall comply with all laws, rules, and court orders relating to racial balance. 20 (4) EXCEPTIONS. -- This section does not apply to plans 21 22 for new elementary schools educational facilities already 23 under architectural contract on July 1, 2003. 24 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a 25 law. 26 27 28 SENATE SUMMARY Repeals the requirement that all educational facilities that are placed under architectural contract after July 1, 2003, must be small schools, as defined by the maximum numbers of students specified for each category of schools. Retains the small-school requirements set forth in s. 235.2157, F.S., for elementary schools. 29 30 31

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