By Senator Wilson

33-103A-06

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to elementary education;
3	creating s. 1003.035, F.S.; providing a maximum
4	student-teacher ratio for classrooms in grades
5	K through 3 of schools designated as the 100
6	lowest-performing elementary schools; requiring
7	the construction of primary learning centers at
8	such schools by a specified deadline; providing
9	criteria for such centers; requiring the hiring
10	of teachers of reading skills at such schools
11	by a specified deadline; providing for
12	continuing operational funding for each such
13	center and school that meets eligibility
14	requirements; providing an effective date.
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16	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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18	Section 1. Section 1003.035, Florida Statutes, is
19	created to read:
20	1003.035 Student-teacher ratio in grades K through 3
21	of the lowest-performing elementary schools; construction of
22	primary learning centers; funding for teachers of reading
23	skills; incentive funding
24	(1) In the 100 lowest-performing elementary schools in
25	this state, for each classroom in kindergarten through grade
26	3, there shall be a student-teacher ratio of no more than 15
27	students per one full-time equivalent teacher. The
28	Commissioner of Education shall select the schools that the
29	commissioner designates as the 100 lowest-performing
30	elementary schools from schools that are defined under s.
31	1008.34 as "failing to make adequate progress" or "F" schools.

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If there are not at least 100 elementary schools in the state 2 which are rated as "F" schools, the commissioner may also choose to include in the 100 lowest-performing elementary 3 4 schools some that are defined as "making less than satisfactory progress" or "D" schools. 5 6 (2) By the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, 7 there must be constructed at each of the 100 lowest-performing 8 elementary schools a primary learning center that is a stand-alone wing housing classrooms that are only for students 9 10 in kindergarten through grade 3. Each center must be equipped with at least one restroom, and each classroom in the wing 11 12 must be able to accommodate a teacher and a maximum of 15 13 students. (3) By the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, 14 there shall be provided to each of the 100 lowest-performing 15 elementary schools sufficient incentive operational funding to 16 hire and train teachers who are specialists in reading skills, 18 in the ratio of one such additional teacher for every 15 students in kindergarten through grade 3. 19 2.0 (4) At least through the 2011-2012 school year, the 21 Legislature shall provide incentive operational funding to 2.2 allow each of the 100 lowest-performing elementary schools to 23 maintain the maximum classroom ratio of 15 students to one full-time equivalent teacher in kindergarten through grade 3 2.4 and to retain the reading teachers required under subsection 2.5 (3). A school that is otherwise eligible for incentive funding 26 2.7 under this subsection but that has more than 15 students per 2.8 teacher in any classroom for students in kindergarten through grade 3 is ineligible to receive the incentive funding. 29 30 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

********** SENATE SUMMARY Provides a maximum student-teacher ratio for classrooms in grades K through 3 of schools designated as the 100 lowest-performing elementary schools. Requires the construction of primary learning centers at such schools by a specified deadline. Provides criteria for such centers. Requires the hiring of teachers of reading skills at such schools by a specified deadline. Provides for continuing operational funding for each such center and school that meets eligibility requirements.