

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL DRS45505-MV-11 (01/05)

Short Title: Tech Correct to Appropriations Act of 2017. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Chaudhuri, Van Duyn, and Smith-Ingram (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE CURRENT OPERATIONS
3 APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2017 REGARDING CLASS SIZE IN KINDERGARTEN
4 THROUGH THIRD GRADE.

5 Whereas, pursuant to S.L. 2017-9, local school administrative units beginning with
6 the 2018-2019 school year are required to set class size averages in grades K-3 that equal the
7 State classroom teacher funding ratios and will have to meet more restrictive individual class
8 size maximums across those grade levels; and

9 Whereas, an immediate reduction in the K-3 class size maximum will worsen an
10 already very difficult environment for local school administrative units in finding licensed and
11 qualified teachers to fill classrooms, most likely leading to more classrooms taught by
12 long-term substitutes or lateral-entry teachers, who do not have the pedagogy and classroom
13 management training necessary; and

14 Whereas, the immediate reduction in individual class size maximum in K-3 class
15 size would in turn increase the number of physical classrooms required at these grade levels,
16 adding to already billions of dollars in unmet capital needs across the State; and

17 Whereas, the immediate reduction will result in the loss of flexibility to generate
18 State funding for teaching positions in program enhancement courses like art, music, and
19 physical education; and

20 Whereas, local school administrative units that lack space to implement the class
21 size reduction may convert art and music rooms into traditional classrooms and have those
22 teachers travel from room to room with a cart to deliver program enhancement classes in
23 traditional classes; but this does not work well with unique aspects of art and music education;
24 and

25 Whereas, art classes require necessary supplies such as paint and clay while music
26 classes generate sounds that, without adequate provisions and soundproofing, have the potential
27 to disrupt learning in neighboring classes; and

28 Whereas, local school administrative units that lack space to implement the class
29 size reductions may need to also convert gymnasiums into traditional classrooms, which would
30 mean that physical education courses are held outdoors with no alternatives for days with
31 adverse weather conditions; and

32 Whereas, it is estimated that in order to comply with the 2018-2019 class size
33 requirement, local school administrative units will need to hire an additional 4,750 teachers at a
34 cost of approximately \$300,000,000; and

35 Whereas, organizations representing teachers and parents have respectfully
36 requested the General Assembly to slow implementation of the K-3 class size requirement; and



1 Whereas, on February 16, 2017, the House of Representatives unanimously passed
2 the first edition of House Bill 13 which provided local school administrative units much-needed
3 flexibility from the class size mandate; and

4 Whereas, on June 30, 2017, the General Assembly declared in Section 2.1. of S.L.
5 2017-197 its intent to create a new funding stream for program enhancement teachers starting
6 in the 2018-2019 fiscal year; and

7 Whereas, on October 5, 2017, the General Assembly passed an adjournment
8 resolution that allows for technical corrections to S.L. 2017-57; and

9 Whereas, the language found below reflects identical language found in the first
10 edition of House Bill 13 as passed unanimously by the House of Representatives; Now,
11 therefore,

12 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

13 **SECTION 1.** Part VII of S.L. 2017-57 is amended by adding a new section to read:

14 **"SECTION 7.15A.(a)** G.S. 115C-301(c) reads as rewritten:

15 "(c) **Maximum Class Size for Kindergarten Through Third Grade.** – The average class
16 size for kindergarten through third grade in a local school administrative unit shall at no time
17 exceed the funded allotment ratio of teachers to students in kindergarten through third
18 ~~grade-grade by more than three students.~~ At the end of the second school month and for the
19 remainder of the school year, the size of an individual class in kindergarten through third grade
20 shall not exceed the allotment ratio by more than ~~three-six~~ students. The funded class size
21 allotment ratio for kindergarten through third grade shall be as follows:

22 (1) For kindergarten, one teacher per 18 students.

23 (2) For first grade, one teacher per 16 students.

24 (3) For second grade, one teacher per 17 students.

25 (4) For third grade, one teacher per 17 students.

26 In grades four through 12, local school administrative units shall have the maximum
27 flexibility to use allotted teacher positions to maximize student achievement."

28 **"SECTION 7.15A.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning
29 with the 2018-2019 school year."

30 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.