

Second Regular Session

Sixty-second General Assembly

LLS NO. R00-0972.01 Jeff Conway

STATE OF COLORADO

BY REPRESENTATIVES Tupa, Allen, Bacon, Hagedorn, Keller, Plant, Williams S., Windels, Zimmerman, Coleman, Decker, Gordon, Gotlieb, Mace, Miller, Saliman, Spence, and Tapia;
also SENATOR Teck.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 00-1053

101 CONCERNING THE COLLECTION OF DATA RELATING TO CLASS SIZES IN
102 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, The effective education of children is of great
2 importance to those children and their future success and to the overall
3 well-being of the citizens of the state of Colorado; and

4 WHEREAS, Numerous studies have shown that a smaller
5 student-to-teacher ratio is one factor that positively affects student
6 achievement and contributes to successful childhood educational
7 experiences; and

8 WHEREAS, Smaller class size enhances teaching and learning by
9 providing greater opportunities for individualized attention, increased
10 student participation, and an enhanced ability for the teacher to cover
11 more material in greater depth; and

12 WHEREAS, Teaching fewer students in a single class gives
13 teachers more flexibility in the teaching methods they employ, increases
14 classroom space and management options, and decreases discipline
15 problems; and

16 WHEREAS, Reduced student-to-teacher ratios foster more
17 frequent and more substantive parent and teacher communication; and

18 WHEREAS, Smaller class size appears to bear a direct
19 relationship to positive emotional development, healthier self-concepts,
20 and greater interest in school on the part of students, as well as increased
21 morale of teachers; and

22 WHEREAS, According to the National Education Association,
23 Colorado has a high ratio of enrolled students to teachers in public
24 elementary and secondary schools, and in the last set of available
25 statistics, was well above the national average with the eighth-largest of
26 all states and the District of Columbia; and

1 WHEREAS, The state currently receives some federal aid to
2 address class sizes, but that aid is intended to supplement and not
3 supplant the state's efforts to reduce class sizes; and

4 WHEREAS, The Colorado Department of Education currently
5 collects data that may be used to calculate class sizes throughout the state,
6 and may do so by reviewing the number of licensed teachers actually
7 teaching in classrooms; now, therefore,

8 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second*
9 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring*
10 *herein:*

11 (1) That the General Assembly encourages the state board of
12 education and the Colorado department of education, within existing
13 appropriations:

14 (a) To obtain and compile relevant statistics regarding class sizes
15 in public schools in the state;

16 (b) To analyze available data and make a determination whether
17 increased expenditures to reduce average class sizes will result in
18 improved student achievement;

19 (c) To calculate a range of options for the state that includes the
20 goals of optimum class sizes and smaller than current class sizes for
21 elementary, middle school or junior high school, and high schools and the
22 relative costs in dollars of meeting those goals; and

23 (d) To review efforts by other states to decrease class sizes in
24 their schools and analyze whether any of those approaches would be
25 successful in Colorado.

26 (2) On or before July 1, 2001, the department of education is
27 requested to prepare and deliver a report on class sizes in public schools
28 in the state that includes the information described above to the education
29 committees of the senate and the house of representatives.

30 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be
31 sent to Governor Bill Owens, the state board of education, and
32 Commissioner of Education William Moloney.