WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1983

ENROLLED
Committee Substitute for
SENATE BILL NO. 591

(By Mr. [Signature], et al.)

PASSED March 12, 1983
In Effect July 1, 1983
AN ACT to amend and reenact section eighteen-a, article five, chapter eighteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to maximum teacher-pupil ratio; delaying by one year the ratio limit for grades three through six; limiting the number of classrooms with two or more grades; and providing for exceptions to the teacher-pupil ratio and limitations thereto.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section eighteen-a, article five, chapter eighteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION.


1 County boards of education shall provide, by the school year one thousand nine hundred eighty-three—eighty-four, and continue thereafter, sufficient personnel, equipment and facilities as will ensure that each first and second grade classroom, or classrooms having two or more grades that include either the first or second grades, shall not have more than twenty-five pupils for each teacher of the grade or grades and shall not have more than twenty pupils for each kindergarten teacher per session, unless the state superintendent has excepted a
specific classroom upon application therefor by a county board of education.

County boards of education shall provide by the school year one thousand nine hundred eighty-four-eighty-five, and continue thereafter, sufficient personnel, equipment and facilities as will ensure that each third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade classroom, or classrooms having two or more grades that include one or more of the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades, shall not have more than twenty-five pupils for each teacher of the grade or grades.

Beginning with the school year one thousand nine hundred eighty-six-eighty-seven and thereafter, no county shall maintain a greater number of classrooms having two or more grades that include one or more of the grade levels referred to in this section than were in existence in said county as of the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred eighty-three: Provided, That for the prior school years and only if there is insufficient classroom space available in the school or county, a county may maintain one hundred ten percent of such number of classrooms.

During the school year one thousand nine hundred eighty-four-eighty-five, and thereafter, the state superintendent is authorized, consistent with sound educational policy, (a) to permit on a statewide basis in grades four through six, more than twenty-five pupils per teacher in a classroom for the purposes of instruction in music and physical education, and (b) to permit more than twenty pupils per teacher in a specific kindergarten classroom and twenty-five pupils per teacher in a specific classroom in grades one through six during a school year in the event of extraordinary circumstances as determined by the state superintendent after application by a county board of education.

The state board of education shall establish guidelines for the exceptions authorized in this section, but in no event shall the superintendent except classrooms having more than three pupils above the teacher-pupil ratio as set forth in this section.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

[Signatures]

Chairman Senate Committee

[Signatures]

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect July 1, 1983.

[Signatures]

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

[Signatures]

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 29 day of March, 1983.

[Signature] Governor