

By Mr. Sheehy, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 297) of Paul J. Sheehy, Frank M. Hynes and Geoffrey C. Beckwith for legislation to establish a pilot program to document the impact of reduced class sizes. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO DOCUMENT THE IMPACT OF REDUCED CLASS SIZES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 15 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 61 of the following section: —

3 Section 62. The board of education shall establish a pilot
4 program for the purpose of examining and documenting the
5 impact of reduced class size as such affects school districts in the
6 Commonwealth, said program to be called the Prime Time
7 Program.

8 The program will be placed into effect in twenty-five
9 municipalities dispersed geographically and as to population and
10 per capita wealth. The municipalities will be chosen by the board
11 of education according to the guidelines and regulations
12 promulgated by the board in conformity with this section.

13 The program shall provide for the establishment of maximum
14 class sizes for pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and pre-first grade
15 classes, inclusive, at a number not greater than fourteen; and for
16 grades one through three, inclusive, the maximum class size shall
17 not be greater than eighteen. Such program shall be voluntary as
18 to participation by local school districts.

19 All costs incurred under this section shall be borne by the
20 Commonwealth, subject to appropriation; provided, the amount
21 to be distributed to a school district that voluntarily participates

22 in the implementation of this section shall be determined, to the
23 extent that funds are available by taking the next number of full-
24 time teacher equivalents that the school district has hired or
25 reassigned since the base year of the program to grade levels
26 affected by this section, and multiplying the number of such net
27 number of teacher equivalents by the sum of eighteen thousand
28 dollars. The provisions of this section shall expire on June
29 thirteenth, nineteen hundred and eighty-nine.

30 The total amount, subject to appropriations, for said Prime
31 Time grants shall be \$500,000 for the fiscal year nineteen hundred
32 and eighty-seven, and three million dollars for each of the fiscal
33 years nineteen hundred and eighty-eight and nineteen hundred
34 and eighty-nine.