

Education

HB 908 sponsored by Rep. Brooks Coleman passed the House amending Article 6 of the "Quality Basic Education Act". The measure specifically will provide budget relief to the state's 181 school districts by allowing them to increase the class size and reduce or cut particular programs.

Many school systems have petitioned the state education board for waivers from the regulations on class size. The bill gives school systems a reprieve from compliance penalties for only the next three years.

Classes for remedial education, vocational laboratory, alternative education, and early intervention programs cannot exceed the funding class size by more than 20 percent, unless specifically authorized by the State Board of Education. Classes for high school mathematics, science, social studies, and language will not exceed the funding class size by more than 39 percent.

The system average maximum class size for special education, gifted, and English as a second language classes will be set by the State Board of Education. The class sizes must be consistent throughout the school system and adhere to the average maximum by no more than three students.