

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 16, 2008

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate  
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell  
Chairperson  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: H.B. 393 [Student-Instructor Ratio]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B. 393 which would codify the recommendation of the Class Size and Unit Allocation Task Force that the Department of Education annually collect and report data regarding compliance with the student-instructor ratio set forth in § 1705A(a), Title 14 of the Delaware Code, by local school districts and charter schools. SCPD endorses the bill since it would promote objective assessment of implementation of the class size standard. The resulting DOE report may reveal that waivers are the norm and the class size standard is essentially illusory.

As background, the Delaware Code currently requires a maximum ratio of 22 students per instructor in K-3 core academic subjects of English/Language Arts, math, science, and social studies. See attached Title 14 Del.C. §1705A. Districts routinely obtain waivers of the standard as authorized by the Code. H.B. 393 suggests that districts experience difficulty in reconciling the above standard with unit count formulas which also cover subjects such as music and art (lines 6-7). However, SCPD infers that the main focus of the bill is to allow uniform data collection to facilitate assessment of conformity with Section 1705A. The bill contemplates reporting of data by school and classroom (lines 18-19). This level of precision is necessary to truly assess conformity with Section 1705A.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner  
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens  
Developmental Disabilities Council