

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1481

4
5 By: Representatives Lowery, Davis
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ALLOW HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE
9 IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS; AND
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

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13 TO ALLOW HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO
14 PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES
15 AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 5, is amended
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 6-15-510. Participation in interscholastic activities at private
24 schools.

25 (a) As used in this section:

26 (1) "Athletic activity" means a varsity sport or another
27 competitive sports-related contest, game, event, or exhibition that involves
28 an individual student or teams of students between schools;

29 (2) "Home-schooled student" means a student legally enrolled in
30 an Arkansas home school;

31 (3) "Interscholastic activity" means an activity between schools
32 subject to regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association that is:

33 (A) Outside the regular curriculum of the school,
34 including without limitation an athletic activity, a fine arts program, or a
35 special interest club or group; and

36 (B) Taught by an individual with a minimum of a high



1 school diploma; and

2 (4) "Parent" is a legal guardian or legal custodian.

3 (b) A private school may approve a home-schooled student to
4 participate in an interscholastic activity if:

5 (1) The home-schooled student reports to the private school
6 within the first eleven (11) days of the fall or spring semester of the
7 private school;

8 (2) The home-schooled student or his or her parent notifies the
9 administrative head of the private school in writing:

10 (A) Of the student's request to participate in the
11 interscholastic activity before the signup, tryout, or participation
12 deadlines established for students enrolled in the private school; and

13 (B) That the student has demonstrated academic eligibility
14 by obtaining:

15 (i) A minimum test score of the thirtieth percentile
16 on the Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally
17 recognized norm-referenced test in the previous twelve (12) months; or

18 (ii) A minimum score on a test approved by the State
19 Board of Education; and

20 (3) The home-schooled student lives within a twenty-five-mile
21 radius of the private school.

22 (c) If a home-schooled student's written request to participate in the
23 interscholastic activity is approved under this section, the student:

24 (1) Although not guaranteed participation in an interscholastic
25 activity, shall have an equal opportunity to try out and participate in
26 interscholastic activities without discrimination; and

27 (2) Shall not participate unless he or she meets the criteria
28 for participation in the interscholastic activity that apply to students
29 enrolled in the private school, including:

30 (A) Tryout criteria;

31 (B) Standards of behavior and codes of conduct;

32 (C) The academic criteria under subdivision (b)(2)(B) of
33 this section;

34 (D) Practice times;

35 (E) Required drug testing;

36 (F) Permission slips, waivers, and physical exams; and

1 (G) Participation or activity fees.

2 (d) A home-schooled student who participates in an interscholastic
3 activity may be:

4 (1) Required to be at school not more than one (1) period per
5 school day; and

6 (2) Transported by the private school to and from
7 interscholastic activities as the private school transports other students
8 who are enrolled in the private school.

9 (e) A student who withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association
10 member school to be home schooled shall not participate in an interscholastic
11 activity in the private school for a minimum of three hundred sixty-five
12 (365) days after the student withdraws from the member school.

13 (f)(1) A home-schooled student approved under subsection (b) of this
14 section to participate in interscholastic activities at a private school may
15 begin participating:

16 (A) In an interscholastic activity that is not an athletic
17 activity immediately upon being approved to participate; and

18 (B)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (f)(2) of this
19 section, in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity three
20 hundred sixty-five (365) days after being approved to participate.

21 (ii) A home-schooled student under subdivision
22 (f)(1)(B)(i) of this section may immediately participate in rehearsals,
23 tryouts, practices, auditions, classes, or other endeavors associated with
24 the interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity.

25 (2) A home-schooled student may begin participating in an
26 interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity immediately upon being
27 approved to participate if the home-schooled student is approved to
28 participate by July 1 of the school year the home-schooled student will be
29 enrolled in:

30 (A) Grade seven (7); or

31 (B) A grade that is the lowest grade offered by the
32 private school.

33 (g) A home-schooled student shall not participate in interscholastic
34 activities at more than one (1) private school at the same time.

35 (h) A private school may establish additional requirements, policies,
36 or standards for home-schooled students to participate in interscholastic

1 activities at the private school under this section.

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