

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1243

5 By: Representatives Lowery, Dotson
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO PERMIT PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO
9 PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES UNDER
10 CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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13 TO PERMIT PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO
14 PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES
15 UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.
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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 § 6-15-509 is amended to read as follows:

22 6-15-509. Participation of home-schooled students in interscholastic
23 activities.

24 (a) The General Assembly recognizes that all students, including
25 private school students and home-schooled students, should have equal access
26 to interscholastic activities as a complement to the academic curriculum.

27 (b) As used in this section:

28 (1) "Athletic activity" means a varsity sport or another
29 competitive sports-related contest, game, event, or exhibition that involves
30 an individual student or teams of students either among schools within the
31 resident school district or between schools outside ~~of~~ the resident school
32 district;

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

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



1 (A) Outside the regular curriculum of a school district,
 2 including without limitation an athletic activity, a fine arts program, or a
 3 special interest club or group; and

4 (B) Taught by an individual with a minimum of a high
 5 school diploma;

6 (4) "Parent" ~~is~~ means a legal guardian or legal custodian;

7 (5) "Private school student" means a student enrolled in a
 8 private school;

9 (6) "Resident school" means the school to which the private
 10 school or home-schooled student would be assigned by the resident school
 11 district; and

12 ~~(6)~~(7) "Resident school district" means the school district in
 13 which the home-schooled student's parent resides as determined under § 6-18-
 14 202.

15 (c) A private school student or home-schooled student shall not
 16 participate in interscholastic activities at a public school other than the
 17 student's resident school.

18 (d) A resident school district may permit a private school student or
 19 home-schooled student to participate in an interscholastic activity if:

20 (1) For the purpose of subsection (g) of this section, the
 21 private school student or home-schooled student reports to the resident
 22 school district within the first eleven (11) days of the fall or spring
 23 semester of the resident school district; and

24 (2) The private school student or home-schooled student, or his
 25 or her parent, advises the principal of the resident school in writing of the
 26 student's request to participate in the interscholastic activity before the
 27 signup, tryout, or participation deadlines established for students enrolled
 28 in the resident school.

29 (e) The principal of the resident school shall permit a private school
 30 student or home-schooled student to pursue participation in an
 31 interscholastic activity of the resident school if the student or the
 32 student's parent:

33 (1) Before the signup, tryout, or participation deadlines
 34 established for students enrolled in the resident school, provides to the
 35 principal a notice of the student's desire to pursue participation; and

36 (2) Informs the principal in the notice that the student has

1 demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining:

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

5 (B) A minimum score on a test approved by the State Board
6 of Education.

7 (f) If a private school student or home-schooled student's written
8 request to participate in the interscholastic activity is approved under this
9 section, the student:

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

13 (2) Shall not participate unless he or she meets the criteria
14 for participation in the interscholastic activity that apply to students
15 enrolled in the resident school district, including:

16 (A) Tryout criteria;

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

18 (C) The academic criteria under subdivision (e)(2) of this
19 section;

20 (D) Practice times;

21 (E) Required drug testing;

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

23 (G) Participation or activity fees.

24 (g) A private school student or home-schooled student who participates
25 in an interscholastic activity may be:

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

28 (2) Transported by the resident school district to and from
29 interscholastic activities as the resident school district transports other
30 students who are enrolled in the resident school.

31 (h) A student who withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association
32 member school to enroll in a private school or to be home-schooled shall not
33 participate in an interscholastic activity in the resident school district
34 for a minimum of three hundred sixty-five (365) days after the student
35 withdraws from the member school.

36 (i) A private school student is not eligible to participate in an

1 interscholastic activity at the resident school as provided under this
2 section if the private school where the student is enrolled offers the same
3 interscholastic activity opportunity.

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