

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-009

REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DIRECT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF POSSIBLE STATE REGULATION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN LIEU OF REGULATION BY THE ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION.

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Activities Association (hereafter "AAA") is a nonpublic entity that regulates interscholastic activities within the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, while the AAA receives a great deal of state funding through payments from public schools, it is not subject to state regulation; and

WHEREAS, recent decisions by the AAA call into question its ability to regulate interscholastic activities in a fair and well-reasoned manner that includes thoroughly investigating alleged violations of AAA rules, consistently adhering to the provisions of its constitution and bylaws, and respecting the accomplishments and achievements of student-athletes; and

WHEREAS, given the importance of interscholastic activities to student-athletes and Arkansas communities and the amount of state dollars paid to the AAA to regulate athletics, a study should be undertaken to determine if state regulation of interscholastic activities would result in cost savings for public school districts and more efficient and effective regulation of interscholastic activities,

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council direct the Senate Committee on Education to conduct a study of the possibility of state regulation of interscholastic activities in lieu of regulation by the AAA, including without limitation the possibility of charging the Department of Education with regulating interscholastic activities.

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BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT the Senate Committee on Education study additional alternatives for regulation of interscholastic activities.

BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council request the participation in the study of the AAA, the Department of Education, and other persons the Senate Committee on Education deems necessary to study the issue.

BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT school administrators, coaches, and parents are invited to attend meetings of the Senate Committee on Education at which the study occurs and share their thoughts and opinions on the regulation of interscholastic activities at an appropriate time.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Jon Woods
District 7

By: MBM/KFW