

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

As Engrossed: S3/26/09

A Bill

SENATE BILL 842

5 By: Senator G. Baker
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For An Act To Be Entitled

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

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14 *TO ALLOW HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO*
15 *PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC*
16 *ACTIVITIES.*
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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 *6-15-509. Participation of home-schooled students in interscholastic*
24 *activities.*

25 *(a) The General Assembly recognizes that all students should have*
26 *equal access to interscholastic activities as a complement to the academic*
27 *curriculum.*

28 *(b) As used in this section:*

29 *(1) "Athletic activities" means a varsity sport and any activity*
30 *related to a competitive sports contest, game, event, or exhibition that*
31 *involves an individual student or teams of students whether the activity*
32 *occurs among schools within the resident school district or between schools*
33 *outside of the resident school district;*

34 *(2) "Interscholastic activity" means any interschool activity*
35 *that is outside the regular curriculum of a public school district, including*
36 *without limitation an athletic activity, a fine arts program, and a special*



1 interest club or group that is subject to regulations of the Arkansas
2 Activities Association; and

3 (3) "Resident school district" means the public school district
4 in which the home-schooled student resides.

5 (c) A resident school district shall permit a home-schooled student to
6 participate in any interscholastic activity, provided that the home-schooled
7 student:

8 (1) Advises the resident school in writing of the student's
9 intent to participate in the interscholastic activity;

10 (2) Meets the eligibility criteria for participation in the
11 interscholastic activity that apply to students enrolled in the resident
12 school district, including standards of behavior and codes of conduct;

13 (3) Meets the tryout criteria for participation in the
14 interscholastic activity that apply to students enrolled in the resident
15 school district;

16 (4) Demonstrates educational progress by submitting a norm-
17 referenced standardized test score, taken within nine (9) months of advising
18 the resident school of the student's intent to participate in an
19 interscholastic activity, on which the student's composite score is at or
20 above the 35th percentile;

21 (5) Complies with all policies, rules, and regulations of the
22 Arkansas Activities Association and the governing organization of the
23 interscholastic activity; and

24 (6) Pays any participation or activity fee equal to the fee
25 charged to students enrolled in the resident school district who participate
26 in the interscholastic activity.

27 (d)(1) When the interscholastic activity requires completion of a
28 physical examination or medical test as a condition of participation and the
29 resident school district offers the physical examination or medical test to
30 students enrolled in the resident school district, the resident school
31 district shall permit a home-schooled student to take the physical
32 examination or medical test.

33 (2) The resident school district shall publish the dates and
34 times of the physical examination or medical test on its publicly accessible
35 website.

36 (e) Insurance coverage provided by a public school district for

1 participants in interscholastic activities shall cover a participating home-
2 schooled student.

3 (f)(1) A public school team or group shall not be impeded from
4 competing against any other public or nonpublic school team or group because
5 the team or group utilized a home-schooled student as provided under this
6 section.

7 (2) A public school district is prohibited from membership in an
8 organization which regulates or governs interscholastic activities and
9 discriminates against an eligible student in a public or nonpublic school,
10 including a home-schooled student.

11 (g) The resident school district may adopt a policy to implement the
12 requirements of this section, provided that the policy applies only to
13 participation in interscholastic activities and does not conflict with this
14 section.

15 /s/ G. Baker
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