

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011  
4  
5 By: Senator G. Baker  
6

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 774

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

### Subtitle

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13 TO ALLOW HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO  
14 PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC  
15 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 activity" 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.

3 (3) "Parent" includes a legal guardian or legal custodian; and

4 (4) "Resident school district" means the public school district  
5 in which the home-schooled student's parent or parents reside.

6 (c)(1) A resident school district may permit a home-schooled student  
7 to participate in an interscholastic activity if the home-schooled student or  
8 his or her parent advises the principal of the school providing the  
9 interscholastic activity in the resident school district in writing of the  
10 student's request to participate in the interscholastic activity within the  
11 first eleven (11) days of the beginning of the school year.

12 (2) The principal of the school providing the interscholastic  
13 activity in the resident school district shall approve or disapprove the  
14 written request within thirty (30) days of receiving the written request and  
15 any information and documentation requested by the principal.

16 (3) The decision of the principal of the school providing the  
17 interscholastic activity in the resident school district is final and may not  
18 be appealed.

19 (d) If a home-schooled student's written request to participate in the  
20 interscholastic activity is approved under subsection (c) of this section,  
21 the student shall then:

22 (1)(A) Meet the tryout criteria for participation in the  
23 interscholastic activity that apply to students enrolled in the resident  
24 school district.

25 (B) A home schooled student is not guaranteed  
26 participation in an athletic activity, only the opportunity to tryout for an  
27 athletic activity;

28 (2)(A) Meet the eligibility criteria for participation in the  
29 interscholastic activity that apply to students enrolled in the resident  
30 school district, including standards of behavior and codes of conduct.

31 (B) A home-schooled student, the home-schooled student's  
32 parent, and the principal of the school providing the interscholastic  
33 activity in the resident school district shall sign the appropriate standards  
34 of behavior and code of conduct agreements which shall be kept on file in the  
35 resident school district;

36 (3) Demonstrate educational progress by submitting a norm-

1 referenced standardized test score on which the student's composite score is  
2 at or above the 60th percentile;

3 (4) Comply with all practice times and required drug testing;

4 (5) Complete any required permissions slips, waivers, and  
5 physical exams; and

6 (6) Pay any participation or activity fee equal to the fee  
7 charged to students enrolled in the resident school district who participate  
8 in the interscholastic activity.

9 (e) A home-schooled student who participates in an interscholastic  
10 activity may:

11 (A) Be counted as an enrolled student by the resident school  
12 district on October 1 for purposes of activity funding only; and

13 (B) Ride to and from interscholastic activity events on a school  
14 bus if that is the policy of the resident school district.

15 (f) A student who has been enrolled in an Arkansas Activities  
16 Association member school and withdraws from school to be home-schooled shall  
17 not participate in an interscholastic activity in a resident school district  
18 for a minimum of one (1) year after the student withdraws.

19 (g) A home-schooled student or a parent or guardian of a home-schooled  
20 student who provides or whose parent provides false documentation or  
21 verification of the home-schooled student's qualifications for eligibility to  
22 participate in an interscholastic activity shall be ruled ineligible and  
23 subject to the same penalties as any other student or parent of a student  
24 deemed appropriate by the resident school district.

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