

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011
4

As Engrossed: S3/17/11 S3/28/11

A Bill

SENATE BILL 774

5 By: Senator G. Baker
6

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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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 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 court-ordered guardian or legal
4 custodian; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (3) Demonstrate educational progress by scoring at grade level
2 or above on a norm-referenced standardized test in mathematics, English,
3 science, and social studies each semester that the student participates in an
4 interscholastic activity;

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

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

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

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

13 (A) Be counted as an enrolled student by the resident school
14 district for prorated average daily membership funding purposes; and

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

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

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

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28 /s/G. Baker
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