

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

As Engrossed: H3/20/13

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1789

5 By: Representative Lowery
6 By: Senators J. English, J. Hendren
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ALLOW HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE
10 IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO ALLOW HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO
16 PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC
17 ACTIVITIES.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 5, is amended
23 to add an additional section to read as follows:

24 6-15-509. Participation of home-schooled students in interscholastic
25 activities.

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

29 (b) As used in this section:

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

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



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

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

7 (B) Taught by an individual with a minimum of a high
8 school diploma;

9 (4) "Parent" is a legal guardian or legal custodian;

10 (5) "Resident school" is the school to which the student would
11 be assigned by the resident school district; and

12 (6) "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 home-schooled student shall not participate in interscholastic
16 activities at a public school other than the student's resident school.

17 (d) A resident school district may permit a home-schooled student to
18 participate in an interscholastic activity if the home-schooled student or
19 his or her parent advises the principal of the resident school in writing of
20 the student's request to participate in the interscholastic activity before
21 the signup, tryout, or participation deadlines established for students
22 enrolled in the resident school.

23 (e) The principal of the resident school shall permit a home-schooled
24 student to pursue participation in an interscholastic activity of the
25 resident school if the student or the student's parent:

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

29 (2) Informs the principal in the notice that the student has
30 demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining:

31 (A) A minimum test score of the thirtieth percentile on a
32 nationally recognized norm-referenced test in the previous twelve (12)
33 months;

34 (B) A minimum score on a test approved by the State Board
35 of Education; or

36 (C) A minimum score on a test approved by the Arkansas

1 Activities Association.

2 (f) If a home-schooled student's written request to participate in the
3 interscholastic activity is approved under this section, the student:

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

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

10 (A) Tryout criteria;

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

12 (C) The academic criteria under subdivision (e)(2) of this
13 section;

14 (D) Practice times;

15 (E) Required drug testing;

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

17 (G) Participation or activity fees.

18 (g) A home-schooled student who participates in an interscholastic
19 activity may be:

20 (1) Counted as an enrolled student by the resident school
21 district;

22 (2) Required to be at school not more than one (1) period per
23 school day if necessary for insurance purposes; and

24 (3) Transported by the resident school district to and from
25 interscholastic activities as the resident school district transports other
26 students who are enrolled in the resident school.

27 (h) A student who transfers to a home school from an Arkansas
28 Activities Association member school during a period that the student is
29 academically ineligible to participate in an interscholastic activity is not
30 eligible to participate in an interscholastic activity in a resident school
31 until the beginning of the following school year.

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33 /s/Lowery
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