

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

SENATE BILL 331

4
5 By: Senator J. Hendren

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ALLOW FREEDOM OF PARTICIPATION IN
9 INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS IN ARKANSAS; TO DECLARE AN
10 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 TO ALLOW FREEDOM OF PARTICIPATION IN
15 INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS IN ARKANSAS; AND
16 TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY.

21 (a)(1) The Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) or a successor
22 organization that serves as the state representative for the National
23 Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) shall allow an AAA member
24 team or school to play a team or school that is not a member of AAA.

25 (2)(A) The AAA shall adopt rules necessary for the
26 implementation of this act that are at least as accommodating and
27 unrestrictive as the rules adopted by other surrounding NFHS state
28 representatives that permit participation by organized home school or private
29 school groups or teams.

30 (B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the AAA
31 incorporate input from home school and private school groups or teams
32 organized in Arkansas during the development of the rules under subdivision
33 (a)(2) of this section.

34 (3) This act does not require the AAA to adopt a rule that
35 requires home school or private school groups or teams to participate in
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1 conference play, post season tournaments, or play-off games, or to be
2 eligible for a recognition award of championship.

3 (b) Immediately upon the adoption of the rules under subdivision
4 (a)(2) of this section, but no later than July 20, 2015, a AAA member team or
5 school may play or scrimmage the following:

6 (1) A secondary school team with grades nine (9) or above;

7 (2) An individual home schooled student who may be invited to
8 participate in a track meet, wrestling competition, golf competition, or
9 other individual athletic event; and

10 (3) A home school group or team in a team sport, including
11 without limitation basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball.

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13 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
14 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that most public school students
15 and private school students have access to interscholastic sports; that home
16 schooled students and some private school students are currently denied
17 equitable access to these sports; and that this act is immediately necessary
18 to allow adequate time for the development of rules and allow scheduling for
19 the 2015-2016 academic year. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist,
20 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
21 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

22 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

23 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
24 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
25 bill; or

26 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
27 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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