

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

As Engrossed: S3/2/15

A Bill

SENATE BILL 331

5 By: Senators J. Hendren, *Bledsoe*
6 By: Representatives J. Mayberry, Davis, Harris, G. Hodges, Lundstrum, Petty, Womack
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO ALLOW FREEDOM OF PARTICIPATION IN
10 INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS IN ARKANSAS; TO DECLARE AN
11 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

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15 TO ALLOW FREEDOM OF PARTICIPATION IN
16 INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS IN ARKANSAS; AND
17 TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY.

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

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

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

35 (3) This act does not require the AAA to adopt a rule that
36 requires home school groups or teams to participate in conference play, post



1 season tournaments, or play-off games, or to be eligible for a recognition,
2 award, or championship.

3 (b) Immediately upon the adoption of the rules under subdivision
4 (a)(2) of this section, but no later than August 31, 2015, a AAA member team
5 school may play or scrimmage a home school group or team in a sport,
6 including without limitation basketball, softball, and volleyball.

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

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

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

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

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24 /s/J. Hendren
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