

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to interscholastic athletics;
3 amending s. 232.61, F.S.; requiring the Florida
4 High School Activities Association to adopt
5 bylaws which require students participating in
6 interscholastic athletic competition or who are
7 candidates for an interscholastic athletic team
8 to satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation
9 prior to participating in interscholastic
10 athletic competition or engaging in practice
11 with an interscholastic athletic team;
12 providing requirements with respect to such
13 evaluation; providing an effective date.

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15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Section 232.61, Florida Statutes, is
18 amended to read:

19 232.61 Governing organization for athletics; adoption
20 of bylaws.--

21 (1) The organization shall adopt bylaws that, unless
22 specifically provided by statute, establish eligibility
23 requirements for all students who participate in high school
24 athletic competition in its member schools. The bylaws
25 governing residence and transfer shall allow the student to be
26 eligible in the school in which he or she first enrolls each
27 school year, or makes himself or herself a candidate for an
28 athletic team by engaging in a practice prior to enrolling in
29 any member school. The student shall be eligible in that
30 school so long as he or she remains enrolled in that school.

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1 Subsequent eligibility shall be determined and enforced
2 through the organization's bylaws.

3 (2) The organization shall ~~also~~ adopt bylaws that
4 specifically prohibit the recruiting of students for athletic
5 purposes. The bylaws shall prescribe penalties and an appeals
6 process for athletic recruiting violations.

7 (3) The organization shall adopt bylaws that require
8 all students participating in interscholastic athletic
9 competition or who are candidates for an interscholastic
10 athletic team to satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each
11 year prior to participating in interscholastic athletic
12 competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or
13 other physical activity associated with the student's
14 candidacy for an interscholastic athletic team. Such medical
15 evaluation can only be administered by a practitioner licensed
16 under the provisions of chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460,
17 or s. 464.012 and in good standing with the practitioner's
18 appropriate regulatory board. The bylaws shall establish
19 requirements for eliciting a student's medical history and
20 performing the medical evaluation required under this
21 subsection, which shall include minimum standards for the
22 physical capabilities necessary for participation in
23 interscholastic athletic competition as contained in a uniform
24 preparticipation physical evaluation form. Practitioners
25 administering medical evaluations pursuant to this section
26 must know the minimum standards established by the
27 organization and certify that the student meets the standards.
28 If the practitioner determines that there are any cardiac
29 anomalies that would place the student athlete at imminent
30 health risk, the student may not participate unless a
31 subsequent EKG or other cardiovascular assessment indicates

1 that the abnormality will not place the student at risk during
2 such participation. Results of such medical evaluation must be
3 provided to the school. No student shall be eligible to
4 participate in any interscholastic athletic competition or
5 engage in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical
6 activity associated with the student's candidacy for an
7 interscholastic athletic team until the results of the medical
8 evaluation verifying that the student has satisfactorily
9 passed the evaluation have been received and approved by the
10 school.

11 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3),
12 a student may participate in interscholastic athletic
13 competition or be a candidate for an interscholastic athletic
14 team if the parent or guardian of the student objects in
15 writing to the student undergoing a medical evaluation because
16 such evaluation is contrary to his or her religious tenets or
17 practices, or if a parent consents in writing notwithstanding
18 the results of any physical examination, provided that no
19 person shall be held liable for any injury or other damages
20 suffered by such student resulting from his or her
21 participation in interscholastic athletic competition or in
22 any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity
23 associated with his or her candidacy for an interscholastic
24 athletic team.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.
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