

By Senator Sebesta

20-596-01

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

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

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

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

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

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 policies that require
8 all students participating in interscholastic athletic
9 competition or who are candidates for an athletic team to
10 satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each year prior to
11 participating in athletic competition or engaging in any
12 practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity
13 associated with the student's candidacy for an athletic team.

14 Such medical evaluation may only be administered by a
15 practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, or s.
16 464.012 and in good standing with the practitioner's
17 appropriate regulatory board. The policies must establish
18 requirements for eliciting a student's medical history and
19 performing the medical evaluation required under this
20 subsection, including criteria for the physical capabilities
21 necessary to participate in interscholastic athletic
22 competition as contained in a uniform pre-participation
23 physical evaluation form. Practitioners administering medical
24 evaluations pursuant to this section must know the criteria
25 established by the organization and certify that the student
26 meets the criteria. If the practitioner determines any
27 abnormal findings in the cardiovascular system, the student
28 may not participate unless a subsequent EKG or other
29 cardiovascular assessment indicates that the abnormality will
30 not place the student at risk during such participation.
31 Results of such medical evaluation must be provided to the

1 school. A student may not participate in any athletic
2 competition or engage in any practice, tryout, workout, or
3 other physical activity associated with the student's
4 candidacy for an interscholastic athletic team until the
5 results of the medical evaluation verifying that the student
6 has satisfactorily passed the evaluation have been received
7 and approved by the school.

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

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11 SENATE SUMMARY

12 Requires the Florida High School Activities Association,
13 as the governing nonprofit organization of athletics in
14 Florida public schools, to adopt policies which require
15 students participating in high school athletic
16 school athletic teams to satisfactorily pass a medical
17 evaluation prior to participating in athletic competition
18 or engaging in practice with an athletic team. Provides
19 requirements with respect to such evaluations.
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