

By Representatives Sobel, Greenstein, Lee, Henriquez,
Gottlieb, Weissman, Gannon, Green, Holloway, Wilson and Fields

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, or s.
17 464.012 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 The medical evaluation shall include a standard 12-lead
29 electrocardiogram (EKG), interpreted by a practitioner
30 certified by an appropriate examining board as competent in
31 interpreting electrocardiograms. The EKG shall have been

1 performed at the time of the first qualifying medical
2 evaluation or within 12 months preceding that date and will
3 not be repeated on subsequent medical evaluations unless
4 indicated by a suspected or observed change in medical status
5 based on a medical evaluation. Results of such medical
6 evaluation must be provided to the school. No student shall
7 be eligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic
8 competition or engage in any practice, tryout, workout, or
9 other physical activity associated with the student's
10 candidacy for an interscholastic athletic team until the
11 results of the medical evaluation verifying that the student
12 has satisfactorily passed the evaluation have been received
13 and approved by the school.

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

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

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Requires the Florida High School Activities Association, as the governing nonprofit organization of athletics in Florida public schools, to adopt bylaws which require students participating in interscholastic athletic competition or who are candidates for an interscholastic athletic team to satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation prior to participating in interscholastic athletic competition or engaging in practice with an interscholastic athletic team. Provides requirements with respect to such evaluations.