

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Education Committee

BILL: CS/SB 1034

SPONSOR: Education Committee and Senator Baker

SUBJECT: Extracurricular Student Activities

DATE: April 5, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Hermanson</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill amends the statutory provisions regulating extracurricular student activities. It broadens the number and type of extracurricular activities the existing statute regulates by stating that extracurricular activities include but are not limited to interscholastic extracurricular activities. Therefore, the eligibility provisions for participation in extracurricular activities, including maintaining the required grade point average (GPA), will apply not only to students who participate in interscholastic activities (or in other words, activities that exist or are carried on between schools) but also to students who want to participate in activities at their school.

The bill states that a student who does not meet the eligibility requirements shall not be precluded from receiving tutoring, performing community service, or attending school athletic, social and academic functions. However, a student who is ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities shall not perform at school functions or travel with a school team, band, club, or other organization to any event where the group is to compete or perform. However, a student who is enrolled in a class designated by the student course code directory can still perform or travel to compete or perform as part of the class curriculum.

The committee substitute says the districts are encouraged to establish a waiver process based on extenuating circumstances of an individual student.

This committee substitute also applies to home education students who desire to participate in extracurricular student activities. In addition, it applies to charter school students who wish to participate in extracurricular student activities at the public school to which the student would otherwise be assigned.

The Department of Education is required to gather data regarding the number of students who have been precluded from participating in extracurricular activities due to the provisions in 1006.15, F.S., and the provisions' impact on graduation and dropout rates. The DOE must report this data annually to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

This committee substitute substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1006.15; 1002.33; 1002.41.

This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

II. Present Situation:

Currently, s. 1006.15, F.S. lays out the standards for student participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities. The section defines "extracurricular" to mean any school-related or education-related activity occurring during or outside the regular instructional school day. To be eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities, a public school student must:

- maintain a GPA of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale in either the previous semester or in the courses required in s. 1003.43(1), F.S.
- execute and fulfill the requirements of an academic performance contract between the student, the district school board, the appropriate governing association, and the student's parents if the student's cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, or its equivalent, on a 4.0 scale in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1), F.S.
- have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1), F.S., during the student's junior or senior year
- maintain satisfactory conduct, and if a student is convicted of, or is found to have committed, a felony or a delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, the student's participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is contingent upon established and published district school board policy.

There are similar eligibility requirements for home education students and charter school students.

The student standards for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities are applied beginning with the student's first semester in the 9th grade. District school boards may establish additional requirements for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities, and students must also meet those requirements.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The committee substitute removes the term "interscholastic" from s. 1006.15, F.S., and amends the definition of "extracurricular" to mean any school-related or education-related activity, including but not limited to "interscholastic activities." "Interscholastic" is defined as "existing or carried on between schools," and by removing it as an adjective modifying "extracurricular," the committee substitute broadens the definition of extracurricular activities, and thus subjects more students to the eligibility requirements.

The committee substitute states that for extracurricular eligibility purposes, a student shall not be precluded from receiving tutoring, performing community service, or attending school athletic, social, and academic functions. However, the committee substitute states that students who do not meet eligibility requirements to participate in extracurricular activities shall not perform at school functions or travel with a school team, band, club, or other organization to any event where the group is to compete or perform.

Additionally, the committee substitute specifies that it does not prohibit a student who is enrolled in a class designated by the student course code provided by the Department of Education from performing or traveling to compete or perform as part of the class curriculum.

By broadening the definition of extracurricular to any school-related or education-related activity, this new provision could prevent students who do not meet eligibility requirements from singing the national anthem before an athletic event, joining the school's chess club or participating in intramural sports.

The committee substitute says the districts are encouraged to establish a waiver process based on extenuating circumstances of an individual student. If the districts establish a waiver process, students may be able to utilize it to participate in extracurricular activities even if they do not meet the statutory eligibility provisions.

A very limited survey of local high schools reported that this committee substitute will impact a small number of students, because many clubs and school activities already have a minimum GPA requirement.

The DOE is required to gather data regarding the number of students who have been precluded from participating in extracurricular activities due to provisions in 1006.15, F.S., and the provisions' impact on graduation and dropout rates. This data must be reported annually to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The committee substitute applies to public school extracurricular activities, so there is no private sector impact.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The fiscal impact is indeterminable.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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