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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to interscholastic and intrascholastic
3 sports; amending s. 1006.15, F.S.; requiring the Florida
4 High School Athletic Association, in cooperation with
5 specified district school boards, to facilitate a pilot
6 program in which a middle school student or a high school
7 student in a private school may participate in athletics
8 at a public school; providing conditions for such
9 participation; requiring the association's board of
10 directors and the district school boards to establish
11 guidelines for conducting the pilot program; specifying
12 requirements and restrictions; requiring the association
13 and district school boards to submit to the Governor and
14 Legislature a copy of established guidelines and a report
15 on the progress of the pilot program; providing for repeal
16 of the pilot program unless reviewed and reenacted by the
17 Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

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21 Section 1. Subsection (8) is added to section 1006.15,
22 Florida Statutes, to read:

23 1006.15 Student standards for participation in
24 interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular student
25 activities; regulation.--

26 (8) (a) The Florida High School Athletic Association
27 (FHSAA), in cooperation with the district school boards of
28 Bradford County, Duval County, and Nassau County, shall
29 facilitate a 2-year pilot program during the 2008-2009 and 2009-

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30 2010 academic years in which a middle school or high school
31 student who attends a private school shall be eligible to
32 participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic sport at a
33 public high school, a public middle school, or a 6-12 public
34 school that is zoned for the physical address at which the
35 student resides if:

36 1. The private school in which the student is enrolled is
37 not a member of the FHSAA and does not offer an interscholastic
38 or intrascholastic athletic program.

39 2. The private school student meets the guidelines for the
40 conduct of the pilot program established by the FHSAA's board of
41 directors and the participating district school boards. At a
42 minimum, such guidelines shall provide:

43 a. A deadline for each sport by which the private school
44 student's parents must register with the public school in writing
45 their intent for their child to participate at that school in the
46 sport.

47 b. Requirements for a private school student to
48 participate, including, but not limited to, meeting the same
49 standards of eligibility, acceptance, behavior, educational
50 progress, and performance that apply to other students
51 participating in interscholastic or intrascholastic sports at a
52 public school or FHSAA member private school.

53 (b) The parents of a private school student participating
54 in a public school sport under this subsection are responsible
55 for transporting their child to and from the public school at
56 which the student participates. The private school the student
57 attends, the public school at which the student participates in a
58 sport, the district school board, and the FHSSA are exempt from

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59 civil liability arising from any injury that occurs to the
60 student during such transportation.

61 (c) For each academic year, a private school student may
62 only participate at the public school in which the student is
63 first registered under sub-subparagraph (a)2.a. or makes himself
64 or herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a
65 practice.

66 (d) The FHSAA and participating district school boards
67 shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and
68 the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

69 1. A copy of the guidelines established under subparagraph
70 (a)2. for the pilot program no later than August 1, 2008.

71 2. A report on the progress of the pilot program no later
72 than January 1, 2010. The report shall include the number of
73 students registered under sub-subparagraph (a)2.a., the number of
74 students found eligible to participate in the pilot program, the
75 number of students who transfer to the public schools at which
76 the students participated under the pilot program, implementation
77 issues experienced with the pilot program, and recommendations on
78 how the pilot program may be improved and expanded to include
79 other counties.

80 (e) This subsection shall stand repealed on June 30, 2010,
81 unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.

82 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.