

By Senator DiCeglie

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Florida High School Athletic
3 Association student eligibility requirements; amending
4 s. 1006.20, F.S.; requiring the Florida High School
5 Athletic Association to adopt bylaws prohibiting a
6 student who is sentenced as an adult for specified
7 offenses from participating in certain competitions;
8 providing applicability; providing an effective date.
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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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12 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
13 1006.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

15 (2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS, POLICIES, OR GUIDELINES.—

16 (a) The FHSAA shall adopt bylaws that, unless specifically
17 provided otherwise by statute, establish eligibility
18 requirements for all students who participate in high school
19 athletic competition in its member schools. Such bylaws must
20 prohibit a student who has been sentenced as an adult for a
21 homicide, sexual battery, or lewd or lascivious offense from
22 participating in high school athletic competition in its member
23 schools. Such prohibition applies to a student regardless of the
24 disposition of his or her case, including adjudication of guilt,
25 withholding of adjudication, or sentencing as a youthful
26 offender. The bylaws governing residence and transfer must allow
27 the student to be immediately eligible in the school in which he
28 or she first enrolls each school year or the school in which the
29 student makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic

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30 team by engaging in a practice before enrolling in the school.
31 The bylaws must also allow the student to be immediately
32 eligible in the school to which the student has transferred. The
33 student remains eligible in that school so long as he or she
34 remains enrolled in that school. Subsequent eligibility must be
35 determined and enforced through the FHSAA's bylaws. Requirements
36 governing eligibility and transfer between member schools must
37 be applied similarly to public school students and private
38 school students. The commissioner may direct the FHSAA to revise
39 its bylaws at any time.

40 1. Any changes to the FHSAA's bylaws must be ratified by
41 the State Board of Education.

42 2. A bylaw adopted by the FHSAA board of directors may not
43 take effect until it is ratified by the State Board of
44 Education.

45 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.