

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [CS/CS/HB 151](#)

**TITLE:** Interscholastic Activities

**SPONSOR(S):** Abbott, Daniels

**COMPANION BILL:** [CS/CS/SB 248](#) (Simon)

**LINKED BILLS:** None

**RELATED BILLS:** None

**FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:** 88 Y's 10 N's **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

### SUMMARY

#### Effect of the Bill:

The bill expands the ability of private school students to participate in interscholastic athletics at Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) member public and private schools by amending the requirement that the private school the student attends not be a FHSA member and removing enrollment limits. An otherwise eligible student may participate in a sport at a member school if the private school the student attends does not offer that sport, based on team designation. A home education student is eligible to participate on an interscholastic athletic team at any public school in the district in which he or she resides. Appeals decisions by the FHSA committee on appeals, the executive director, and the FHSA board of directors must be published, in a deidentified manner, online and in a searchable format.

#### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

[JUMP TO](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[ANALYSIS](#)

[RELEVANT INFORMATION](#)

### ANALYSIS

#### **EFFECT OF THE BILL:**

CS/CS/HB 151 passed as [CS/CS/SB 248](#).

The bill amends the program operated by the [Florida High School Athletic Association](#) (FHSA) in conjunction with member school districts and member private schools that allows [private school student participation in interscholastic athletics](#) at member schools by removing the prohibition on participation in the program by students attending member private schools. An otherwise eligible student at any private school could participate in athletics at a member public or private school as long as the school the student attends does not offer the desired sport. When determining whether a school offers an activity or sport, the activity or sport must be in the same [designation of athletics teams](#) required by law relating to the biological sex of participants.

A [home education student is eligible to participate on an interscholastic athletic team](#) at any public school in the school district in which the student resides, provided the student satisfies the existing requirements for participation. (Section [1](#)).

Final decisions of the [committees on appeals](#), the executive director, or his or her designee, and the FHSA Board of Directors must be published to the FHSA website after being deidentified. (Section [2](#)).

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 21, 2025, ch. 2025-52, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2025. (Section [3](#)).

**STORAGE NAME:** h0151z1

**DATE:** 5/22/2025

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

#### [Florida High School Athletic Association](#)

The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) is statutorily designated as the governing nonprofit organization for interscholastic athletics for grades 6 through 12 in Florida public schools. Any high school, middle school, or combination school,<sup>1</sup> including charter schools, virtual schools, private schools, and home education cooperatives,<sup>2</sup> may become a member of the FHSAA. The FHSAA is prohibited from denying or discouraging interscholastic competition between its member schools and non-FHSAA member schools in Florida and may not take discriminatory or retributory action against a member school that engages in interscholastic competition with non-FHSAA member schools.<sup>3</sup> The FHSAA is required to adopt bylaws regulating student eligibility, recruiting, and member schools' interscholastic competition in accordance with applicable law.<sup>4</sup>

#### [Designation of Athletics Teams](#)

Florida law requires that all interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic teams or sports that are sponsored by a public secondary school or public postsecondary institution must be expressly designated as one of the following based on the biological sex at birth of team members:

- Males, men, or boys;
- Females, women, or girls; or
- Coed or mixed, including both males and females.<sup>5</sup>

Athletic teams or sports designated for males, men, or boys may be open to students of the female sex while athletic teams or sports designated for females, women, or girls may not be open to students of the male sex.<sup>6</sup>

#### [Private School Student Participation in Interscholastic Athletics](#)

The FHSAA, member school districts, and member private schools must establish a program through which private school students may participate in interscholastic sports at member public schools and member private schools. A private school student shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at a member public middle school, member public high school, member public 6-12 school, or member private school, if the private school that he or she attends is not a member of the FHSAA and he or she meets the guidelines for such participation established by the FHSAA and the district school board or member private school. Each academic year, a student participating in this program may only participate at the public school where the student first registers or makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a practice.<sup>7</sup>

The private school the participating student attends is required to share any of the participating student's education records necessary for the operation of the program with the FHSAA, upon request. The athletic director at the public school where the private school student participates is required to maintain any necessary education records.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> A "combination school" is any school that provides instruction to students in high school and the middle school grades; elementary, middle or high school grades combined; or elementary and middle grades combined (e.g. K-12; K-8; 6-12; or 7-12). Bylaw 3.2.2.3, FHSAA.

<sup>2</sup> A "home education cooperative" is a parent-directed group of individual home education students that provides opportunities for interscholastic athletic competition to those students and may include students in grades 6-12. Bylaw 3.2.2.4, FHSAA.

<sup>3</sup> Section [1006.20\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>4</sup> Section [1006.20\(2\), F.S.](#)

<sup>5</sup> Section [1006.205\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#) For purposes of such designation, a statement of a student's biological sex on the student's official birth certificate is considered to have correctly stated the student's biological sex at birth if the statement was filed at or near the time of the student's birth. Section [1006.205\(3\)\(d\), F.S.](#)

<sup>6</sup> Section [1006.205\(3\)\(b\)-\(c\), F.S.](#)

<sup>7</sup> Section [1006.15\(8\), F.S.](#)

<sup>8</sup> Section [1006.15\(8\)\(e\) and \(d\), F.S.](#)

Only students attending private schools that are not members of the FHSAA and that have 200 or fewer students are authorized to participate in this program. Eligible students must apply using the FHSAA application process.<sup>9</sup> The parents of a participating student are responsible for transporting the student to and from the public school at which he or she participates.<sup>10</sup>

### **Home Education Student's Participation in Extracurricular Activities**

Students participating in a home education program may be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities at a Florida public school or private school.<sup>11</sup> Current law permits a home education program student to participate at the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies, any public school that the student could choose to attend pursuant to Florida's controlled open enrollment processes, or a private school, subject to an agreement with that private school.<sup>12</sup> A home education program student's participation is subject to the following conditions:<sup>13</sup>

- The home education student satisfies the requirements of Florida's home education program.
- During the period of participation at a school, the home education student demonstrates educational progress.
- The home education student meets the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he or she participates.
- The home education student meets the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance as required of other students in extracurricular activities.
- The student registers with the school his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities before participation.<sup>14</sup>

### **FHSAA Appeals Process**

Current law requires the FHSAA to establish a procedure of due process which allows each student the opportunity to appeal an unfavorable ruling with regard to his or her eligibility to compete. The initial appeal must be made to a committee on appeals within the administrative region in which the student lives.<sup>15</sup> The FHSAA's bylaws establish a committee on appeals for each administrative region consisting of seven members, as follows:

- Two members representing public schools elected by, and from, the public school FHSAA Representatives in the administrative region;
- One member representing non-public schools elected by, and from, the non-public school FHSAA Representatives in the administrative region;
- One member representing public school districts selected on a rotating basis, when possible, by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents from among district school superintendents, or by the Florida School Boards Association from among district school board members in the administrative region.
- One member representing recognized non-public school accrediting associations selected by the Florida Association of Academic Non-public Schools from among district-, regional- or school-based non-public school administrators or governing board members in the administrative region;
- One at-large member from an under-represented sex and/or race appointed by the Board of Directors from among district, regional, or school administrators in the administrative region; and
- One attorney from among attorneys living in the administrative region, who within the last five years has been a member in good standing of the Florida Bar or the bar of any other state in the union.<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> Section [1006.15\(8\)\(g\) and \(f\), F.S.](#)

<sup>10</sup> Section [1006.15\(8\)\(b\), F.S.](#) Additionally, this provision shields the FHSAA, the public school at which the student is participating, the district school board operating the school, and the private school the student attends from civil liability for any injuries that occur during such transportation.

<sup>11</sup> Section [1006.15\(3\)\(c\), F.S.](#)

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> The school at which the home education program student participates in an extracurricular activity must permit the student to participate in any curricular activities necessary for full participation in the extracurricular activity. Section [1006.15\(3\)\(c\)5., F.S.](#)

<sup>15</sup> Section [1006.20\(7\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>16</sup> Bylaw 4.4.1, FHSAA.

The committee on appeals is authorized to consider requests by member schools seeking exceptions to bylaws and regulations, to hear undue hardship eligibility cases filed by member schools on behalf of student athletes, and to hear appeals filed by member schools or student athletes.<sup>17</sup>

A student athlete or member school that receives an unfavorable ruling from a committee on appeals is entitled to appeal that decision to the FHSAA board of directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting or called meeting. The board of directors shall have the authority to uphold, reverse, or amend the decision of the committee on appeals. The decision of the board of directors is final. The FHSAA must expedite the appeals process on determinations of ineligibility so that disposition of the appeal can be made before the end of the applicable sports season, if possible.<sup>18</sup>

#### RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #	HOUSE SPONSOR(S)	SENATE SPONSOR	OTHER INFORMATION
2023	<a href="#">CS/CS/HB 225</a>	Hawkins, Canady	Collins	Became law on July 1, 2023.
2023	<a href="#">CS/HB 259</a>	Brackett	Grall	Became law on July 1, 2023.

---

<sup>17</sup> Section [1006.20\(7\)\(d\)](#), F.S.

<sup>18</sup> Section [1006.20\(7\)\(e\) and \(f\)](#), F.S.