

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

SenateHouse

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Representative Abbott offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (2) and paragraphs (a), (e), and (g) of subsection (8) of section 1006.15, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1006.15 Student standards for participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular student activities; regulation.—

(2) Interscholastic extracurricular student activities are an important complement to the academic curriculum.

Participation in a comprehensive extracurricular and academic

421121

Approved For Filing: 4/18/2025 2:49:21 PM

Amendment No.

14 program contributes to student development of the social and
15 intellectual skills necessary to become a well-rounded adult. As
16 used in this section, the term "extracurricular" means any
17 school-authorized or education-related activity occurring during
18 or outside the regular instructional school day. When
19 determining whether a school offers an activity or sport, the
20 activity or sport must be in the same designation required by s.
21 1006.205(3)(a).

22 (8)(a) The Florida High School Athletic Association
23 (FHSA) shall, in cooperation with each district school board
24 and its member private schools, facilitate a program in which a
25 middle school or high school student who attends a private
26 school is eligible to participate in an interscholastic or
27 intrascholastic sport at a member public high school, a member
28 public middle school, a member 6-12 public school, or a member
29 private school, as appropriate for the private school student's
30 grade level, if:

31 1. The private school in which the student is enrolled
32 does not offer the interscholastic sport ~~is not a member of the~~
33 ~~FHSA~~.

34 2. The private school student meets the guidelines for the
35 conduct of the program established by the FHSA's board of
36 directors and the district school board or member private
37 school. At a minimum, such guidelines must provide a deadline
38 for each sport by which the private school student's parents

421121

Approved For Filing: 4/18/2025 2:49:21 PM

Amendment No.

39 must register with the member school in writing their intent for
40 their child to participate at that school in the sport.

41 (e) Any ~~non-FHSAA member~~ private school that has a student
42 who wishes to participate in this program must make all student
43 records, including, but not limited to, academic, financial,
44 disciplinary, and attendance records, available upon request of
45 the FHSAA.

46 ~~(g) Only students who are enrolled in non-FHSAA member~~
47 ~~private schools consisting of 200 students or fewer are eligible~~
48 ~~to participate in the program in any given academic year.~~

49 **Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and subsection**
50 **(7) of section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

51 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

52 (4) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

53 (a) The executive and legislative authority of the FHSAA
54 is vested in its board of directors, which is composed of 13
55 members, ~~8 of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed~~
56 ~~by the Senate,~~ as follows:

57 1. Two public member school representatives elected from
58 among its public school representative members. Each elected
59 representative must be from a different administrative region.

60 2. Two nonpublic member school representatives elected
61 from among its nonpublic school representative members. Each
62 elected representative must be from a different administrative

421121

Approved For Filing: 4/18/2025 2:49:21 PM

Amendment No.

63 region that is also different from the public member school
64 representatives elected under subparagraph 1.

65 3. The commissioner or his or her designee from the
66 department executive staff.

67 4. Three members appointed by the President of the Senate,
68 three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
69 Representatives, and two members appointed by the Governor, as
70 follows:

71 a.3. Two public member school representatives appointed
72 from different administrative regions.

73 b.4. Two nonpublic member school representatives appointed
74 from different administrative regions that are also different
75 than those represented by the public member school
76 representatives appointed under sub-subparagraph a. subparagraph
77 3.

78 c.5. Two representatives, one appointed from the two
79 northernmost administrative regions and one appointed from the
80 two southernmost administrative regions.

81 d.6. One district school superintendent appointed from the
82 northernmost administrative region.

83 e.7. One district school board member appointed from the
84 southernmost administrative region.

85 ~~8. The commissioner or his or her designee from the~~
86 ~~department executive staff.~~

87 (7) APPEALS.—

421121

Approved For Filing: 4/18/2025 2:49:21 PM

Amendment No.

88 (a) The FHSAA shall establish a procedure of due process
89 which ensures each student the opportunity to appeal an
90 unfavorable ruling with regard to his or her eligibility to
91 compete. The initial appeal shall be made to a committee on
92 appeals within the administrative region in which the student
93 lives. The FHSAA's bylaws shall establish the number, size, and
94 composition of each committee on appeals, which must have a
95 majority of its membership be representatives of member schools.

96 (b) No member of the board of directors is eligible to
97 serve on a committee on appeals.

98 (c) Members of a committee on appeals shall serve terms of
99 3 years and are eligible to succeed themselves only once. A
100 member of a committee on appeals may serve a maximum of 6
101 consecutive years. The FHSAA's bylaws shall establish a rotation
102 of terms to ensure that a majority of the members' terms do not
103 expire concurrently.

104 (d) The authority and duties of a committee on appeals
105 shall be to consider requests by member schools seeking
106 exceptions to bylaws and regulations, to hear undue hardship
107 eligibility cases filed by member schools on behalf of student
108 athletes, and to hear appeals filed by member schools or student
109 athletes. Each committee on appeals must issue a decision on
110 appeals of determinations of ineligibility within 20 days after
111 any such appeal during the applicable sports season.

421121

Approved For Filing: 4/18/2025 2:49:21 PM

Amendment No.

112 (e) A student athlete or member school that receives an
113 unfavorable ruling from a committee on appeals shall be entitled
114 to appeal that decision to the board of directors at its next
115 regularly scheduled meeting or called meeting. The board of
116 directors shall have the authority to uphold, reverse, or amend
117 the decision of the committee on appeals. In all such cases, the
118 decision of the board of directors shall be final.

119 (f) The FHSAA shall expedite the appeals process on
120 determinations of ineligibility so that disposition of the
121 appeal can be made before the end of the applicable sports
122 season, if possible. The expedited process must provide that the
123 FHSAA board of directors issue a decision within 20 days after
124 receipt of an appeal of a determination of ineligibility by the
125 committee on appeals. The FHSAA board of directors may conduct
126 meetings for the sole purpose of considering such pending
127 appeals.

128 (g) In any appeal from a decision on eligibility made by
129 the executive director or a designee, a school or student
130 athlete filing the appeal must be permitted to present
131 information and evidence that was not available at the time of
132 the initial determination or if the determination was not made
133 by an unbiased, objective individual using a process allowing
134 full due process rights to be heard and to present evidence. If
135 evidence is presented on appeal, a de novo decision must be made
136 by the committee or board hearing the appeal, or the

421121

Approved For Filing: 4/18/2025 2:49:21 PM

Amendment No.

determination may be suspended and the matter remanded for a new determination based on all the evidence. If a de novo decision is made on appeal, the decision must be made in writing, setting forth the findings of fact and specific violation upon which the decision is based. If a de novo decision is not required, the decision appealed must be set aside if the decision on ineligibility was not based on clear and convincing evidence. Any further appeal shall be considered on a record that includes all evidence presented.

(h) Decisions made by the committee on appeals, the executive director, or his or her designee, and the FHSAA board of directors must be posted online in a searchable format and in compliance with ss. 1002.22 and 1002.221.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to student participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular sports; amending s. 1006.15, F.S.; providing requirements for determining whether a school offers an activity or sport; revising the criteria a private school student must meet to participate in a sport at

421121

Approved For Filing: 4/18/2025 2:49:21 PM

Amendment No.

162 a Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA)
163 member school; removing a provision limiting which
164 non-FHSAA member private school students are eligible
165 to participate in FHSAA sports; amending s. 1006.20,
166 F.S.; revising the requirements for the appointment of
167 members to the FHSAA board of directors; providing
168 requirements for membership of FHSAA committees on
169 appeals; providing timelines for specified appeals;
170 authorizing the FHSAA board of directors to conduct
171 meetings solely for certain appeals; requiring the
172 publication of appeal decisions online; providing
173 requirements for such publications; providing an
174 effective date.

421121

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