

HB 1253

2026

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to athletics in public K-12 schools;
amending s. 1006.20, F.S.; requiring the Florida High
School Athletic Association to adopt bylaws
authorizing a coach to support the welfare of a
student by using personal funds to provide certain
effects to the student; requiring the coach to report
such use of personal funds to the association;
providing that such use of personal funds is presumed
not to be an impermissible benefit; providing
exceptions; providing a limitation on the annual
amount of personal funds a coach may use per athletic
team; amending ss. 768.135, 1002.20, 1006.165, and
1012.468, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing
an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present paragraphs (c) through (n) of subsection (2) of section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (d) through (o), respectively, and a new paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, to read:

1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.-

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

(c) The FHSAA shall adopt bylaws that authorize a coach to

26 support the welfare of a student he or she coaches by using
27 personal funds to provide, in good faith, effects such as food,
28 transportation, and recovery services.

29 1. A coach who uses personal funds to provide such effects
30 must report such use to the FHSAA in a manner provided by FHSAA
31 bylaw.

32 2. Such use of personal funds is presumed not to be an
33 impermissible benefit, unless such use of personal funds is:

34 a. Not reported;
35 b. Reported and deemed not to be in good faith by the
36 FHSAA; or
37 c. Used for recruiting purposes.

38 3. The amount of personal funds a coach may use per
39 athletic team per year is \$15,000.

40 **Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 768.135, Florida**
41 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

42 768.135 Volunteer team physicians; immunity.—

43 (3) A practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter
44 459, chapter 460, or s. 464.012 or registered under s. 464.0123
45 who gratuitously and in good faith conducts an evaluation
46 pursuant to s. 1006.20(2)(d) ~~s. 1006.20(2)(c)~~ is not liable for
47 any civil damages arising from that evaluation unless the
48 evaluation was conducted in a wrongful manner.

49 **Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (17) of section**
50 **1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

51 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public
52 school students must receive accurate and timely information
53 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
54 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
55 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
56 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

57 (17) ATHLETICS; PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL.—

58 (b) *Medical evaluation and electrocardiogram.*—Before
59 participating in athletics, students must:

60 1. Satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each year,
61 unless the parent objects in writing based on religious tenets
62 or practices, in accordance with s. 1006.20(2)(e) s.
63 ~~1006.20(2)(d)~~; and

64 2. As applicable under s. 1006.20, receive an
65 electrocardiogram, unless the parent objects in writing based on
66 religious tenets or practices or secures a certificate of
67 medical exception in accordance with s. 1006.20(2)(e) s.
68 ~~1006.20(2)(d)~~ or the school district is unable to obtain a
69 public or private partnership for the provision of an
70 electrocardiogram pursuant to s. 1006.165.

71 **Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 1006.165, Florida
72 Statutes, is amended to read:**

73 1006.165 Well-being of students participating in
74 extracurricular activities; training.—

75 (3) Each school district must pursue public and private

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76 partnerships to provide low-cost electrocardiograms to the
77 student. A student athlete is exempt from the requirement in s.
78 1006.20(2)(d)4. ~~s. 1006.20(2)(c)4.~~ if he or she resides in a
79 school district that is unable to obtain a public or private
80 partnership to provide an electrocardiogram at a rate of less
81 than \$50 per student.

82 **Section 5. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section
83 1012.468, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

84 1012.468 Exceptions to certain fingerprinting and criminal
85 history checks.—

86 (2) A district school board shall exempt from the
87 screening requirements set forth in ss. 1012.465 and 1012.467
88 the following noninstructional contractors:

89 (g) An investigator for the Florida High School Athletic
90 Association (FHSAA) who meets the requirements under s.
91 1006.20(2)(f) ~~s. 1006.20(2)(e).~~

92 **Section 6.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.