

CS/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 certain coaches to support the welfare of
a student by using personal funds to provide certain
effects to the student; providing requirements for
such bylaws; 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 per year, beginning on
a specified date; authorizing other athletic
associations to adopt similar bylaws; 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:

26 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

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

28 (c) The FHSAA shall adopt bylaws that authorize a coach,
29 employed by a school or school district, to support the welfare
30 of a student he or she coaches by using personal funds to
31 provide, in good faith, effects such as food, transportation,
32 physical therapy, and rehabilitation services. The bylaws must
33 define the term "athletic team" to include junior varsity and
34 varsity levels, based on designation requirements of s.

35 1006.205(3)(a), and restrict such use of funds to one coach per
36 athletic team.

37 1. A coach who uses personal funds to provide such effects
38 must report such use to the FHSAA in a manner provided by FHSAA
39 bylaw.

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

42 a. Not reported;

43 b. Reported and deemed not to be in good faith by the
44 FHSAA; or

45 c. Used for recruiting purposes.

46 3. Beginning July 1, 2026, the maximum amount of personal
47 funds a coach may use per athletic team per year is \$15,000.

49 Any other organization governing interscholastic athletic
50 competition in this state may adopt bylaws similar to those

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51 required by this paragraph.

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

54 768.135 Volunteer team physicians; immunity.—

55 (3) A practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter
56 459, chapter 460, or s. 464.012 or registered under s. 464.0123
57 who gratuitously and in good faith conducts an evaluation
58 pursuant to s. 1006.20(2)(d) ~~s. 1006.20(2)(e)~~ is not liable for
59 any civil damages arising from that evaluation unless the
60 evaluation was conducted in a wrongful manner.

61 **Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (17) of section
62 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

63 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public
64 school students must receive accurate and timely information
65 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
66 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
67 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
68 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

69 (17) ATHLETICS; PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL.—

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

72 1. Satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each year,
73 unless the parent objects in writing based on religious tenets
74 or practices, in accordance with s. 1006.20(2)(e) ~~s.~~
75 1006.20(2)(d); and

76 2. As applicable under s. 1006.20, receive an
77 electrocardiogram, unless the parent objects in writing based on
78 religious tenets or practices or secures a certificate of
79 medical exception in accordance with s. 1006.20(2)(e) ~~s.~~
80 ~~1006.20(2)(d)~~ or the school district is unable to obtain a
81 public or private partnership for the provision of an
82 electrocardiogram pursuant to s. 1006.165.

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

85 1006.165 Well-being of students participating in
86 extracurricular activities; training.—

87 (3) Each school district must pursue public and private
88 partnerships to provide low-cost electrocardiograms to the
89 student. A student athlete is exempt from the requirement in s.
90 1006.20(2)(d)4. ~~s. 1006.20(2)(e)4.~~ if he or she resides in a
91 school district that is unable to obtain a public or private
92 partnership to provide an electrocardiogram at a rate of less
93 than \$50 per student.

94 **Section 5. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section
95 1012.468, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

96 1012.468 Exceptions to certain fingerprinting and criminal
97 history checks.—

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

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101 (g) An investigator for the Florida High School Athletic
102 Association (FHSAA) who meets the requirements under s.
103 1006.20(2)(f) s. 1006.20(2)(e).

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