

HOUSE _____ AMENDMENT NO. _____

Offered By _____

AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 243, Page 27, Section 160.522, Line 42, by inserting after all of said section and line the following:

"160.1175. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Students First Interscholastic Athletics Act".

2. It is the intent of the general assembly that every student of high school age has the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics, including, but not limited to:

(1) Students who attend public school;

(2) Students who attend private school;

(3) Students who pursue their education through the virtual public school established in section 161.670; and

(4) Students who complete their education through a program of home schooling.

3. It is the intent of the general assembly that all students of high school age have equal access to interscholastic athletics, regardless of background and education program.

4. Any student of high school age in Missouri described in subsection 2 of this section shall have the opportunity to seek to participate in interscholastic athletics through the school that he or she attends. If the student's school of attendance does not offer interscholastic athletics, the student shall have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics through his or her public school district of residence.

5. Each school that offers interscholastic athletics shall identify and make public, by July first of each year, the individual sports and athletic programs that it shall provide to students. When providing such information, each school shall identify an approximate number of athletes that may participate on each sports team at such time.

6. To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, a student shall:

(1) Be not less than fourteen years of age but not older than nineteen years of age;

(2) Be a resident of the state of Missouri;

(3) Be a United States citizen, United States national, permanent resident of the United States, or otherwise have lawful presence in the United States;

(4) Provide affirmative proof of identity;

1 (5) Be completing an education program as described in subsection 2 of this section;

2 (6) Complete an application for athletic participation as required by the school;

3 (7) Be declared able to participate in athletic activities by a physician or healthcare
4 provider licensed to practice in Missouri;

5 (8) Be maintaining a satisfactory grade point average sufficient to meet the school
6 district's academic policy to participate in athletics or making satisfactory progress in his or her
7 education program that is considered equivalent to the school district's academic policy to
8 participate in athletics.

9 7. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a school or school district to
10 allow all students to participate in interscholastic athletics. A school or school district shall have
11 discretion as to which students may participate on a team. However, any student who desires to
12 participate may seek to participate.

13 8. No school or school district shall discriminate against a student seeking to participate in
14 interscholastic athletics based on his or her choice of education program. “ ; and

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16 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
17 accordingly.
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