

HOUSE BILL NO. 1551

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FITZPATRICK.

4221L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to home school student participation in interscholastic activities.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 160.1185, to read as follows:

160.1185. 1. The provisions of this section shall be known and referred to as the "Equal Access to Interscholastic Activities Act".

2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Home school student", a child taught in accordance with section 167.031; and

(2) "Interscholastic activities", includes, but is not limited to, athletics, music, speech, and other extracurricular activities.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, home school students shall not be denied by any school district the opportunity to participate in interscholastic activities when the following conditions are met:

(1) The student meets all school district eligibility requirements with the exception of:

(a) The school district's school or class attendance requirements; and

(b) Class and enrollment requirements of any association governing interscholastic activities;

(2) The student's teacher certifies by submitting an affidavit to the school district that the student fully complies with Missouri compulsory education laws;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 (3) The student participating in the interscholastic activities resides within the
18 attendance boundaries of the school for which the student participates;

19 (4) The student notifies the superintendent of the school district in writing of his
20 or her intent to participate in the interscholastic activity as a representative of the school
21 before practice commences for the season for the activity in which he or she wishes to
22 participate; and

23 (5) The student's participation in interscholastic activities does not deprive another
24 student attending the school sponsoring the interscholastic activity of an opportunity to
25 participate in the interscholastic activity.

26 4. A public school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility is
27 ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities as a home school student for the
28 following semester. To establish academic eligibility for subsequent school years, the
29 student's teacher shall certify by submitting an affidavit to the school district that the
30 student fully complies with the law of his or her respective school and currently maintains
31 academic eligibility.

32 5. A home school student shall fulfill the same responsibilities and standards of
33 behavior and performance, including practice requirements of other students participating
34 in interscholastic activities of the team or squad and is required to meet the same standards
35 for acceptance on the team or squad.

36 6. A school district shall not hold membership or affiliation with any private or
37 public organization which discriminates against home school students in any
38 interscholastic activity.

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