

HB 1347 -- SCHOOL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

SPONSOR: Haahr

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 16 to 4.

This bill states that any public school that participates in any activity sponsored by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) must provide home school students, who reside in their attendance area, with the opportunity to participate in these activities in the same manner that the opportunity is provided to the students enrolled in the school. Home school students who participate or seek to participate are subject to the same registration, age limit, fees, insurance, transportation, physical condition, qualifications, responsibilities, event schedules, standards of behavior, and performance requirements as enrolled students. The person who provides home school instruction to the student must certify that the student is receiving a passing grade in each course and is maintaining satisfactory advancement. If the home school student was previously enrolled in a public school during a school year, the student is not authorized to participate during the remainder of that year. The association cannot prohibit a home school student from participating in compliance with this law.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the requirement that a student must be enrolled at least half-time in a school to participate on a team discriminates against home-schooled students.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Haahr; Missouri Family Network; Stacey Shore; Grant Norton; and Joni Norton.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that it is almost impossible to ensure that home-schooled students are held to the same academic and conduct standards as students in public or private schools.

Testifying against the bill were Jeff Walker and Dorie Smith.