

SENATE, No. 426

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to allow nonpublic school students to participate in interscholastic sports programs on resident district's sports teams.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



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1 AN ACT concerning the participation of nonpublic school students
2 in Statewide interscholastic sports programs and supplementing
3 chapter 11 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. a. A board of education shall permit a student who attends a
9 nonpublic school and who meets the eligibility requirements for
10 student athletes established by the New Jersey State Interscholastic
11 Athletic Association to try out for, and participate in, a school-
12 sponsored interscholastic athletics team or squad in the student's
13 district of residence in accordance with the same criteria established
14 for students enrolled in the district if the nonpublic school does not
15 sponsor an interscholastic sports team or squad in the sport in which
16 the student wishes to participate. Any controversy concerning a
17 student's compliance with the eligibility requirements for student-
18 athletes established by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic
19 Association shall be adjudicated by the association in accordance
20 with its constitution and by-laws.

21 A student who attends a nonpublic school who wishes to
22 compete on an interscholastic sports team or squad in his resident
23 district shall:

24 (1) provide proof that he resides in the district; and

25 (2) meet the sports participation requirements established by the
26 school district for students enrolled in the district such as physical
27 examinations, insurance, age, academic, and other requirements. A
28 nonpublic school student shall comply with the same standards of
29 behavior, responsibilities, and performance as all other members of
30 the team or squad.

31 b. A student who withdraws from a school district to enroll in a
32 nonpublic school and who is ineligible to participate in
33 interscholastic athletics at the time of withdrawal from the school
34 district due to his failure to meet academic, behavioral, or eligibility
35 standards, shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletic
36 competition in accordance with the rules of the New Jersey State
37 Interscholastic Athletic Association.

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39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill requires school districts to allow students who attend
45 nonpublic schools to try out for, and participate in, interscholastic
46 athletics in the student's district of residence if the nonpublic school
47 does not sponsor an interscholastic sports team or squad in the sport

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1 in which the student wishes to participate. In order to participate,
2 the student must: provide proof that he resides in the district; and
3 meet the sports participation requirements established by the school
4 district for students enrolled in the district such as physical
5 examinations, insurance, age, academic, and other requirements. A
6 nonpublic school student must comply with the same standards of
7 behavior, responsibilities, and performance as all other members of
8 the team or squad.

9 Under the bill, any controversy concerning a student's
10 compliance with the eligibility requirements for student-athletes
11 established by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic
12 Association will be adjudicated by the association in accordance
13 with its constitution and by-laws.