

HB547 INTRODUCED



1 HB547
2 QKAX415-1
3 By Representative Kiel
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 08-Apr-25



SYNOPSIS:

This bill would prohibit public K-12 school athletic teams from participating in post-season athletic events against nonpublic school athletic teams.

This bill would prohibit public K-12 schools from being members of athletic associations that prohibit or discourage member schools from participating in certain athletic events; other than post-season athletic events.

This bill would also prohibit public K-12 schools from competing in athletic events against other schools that belong to a separate athletic association unless that athletic association meets certain minimum criteria.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 schools; to prohibit competition between public and nonpublic K-12 school athletic teams in post-season athletic events; to prohibit membership



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in certain athletic associations; and to prohibit athletic competition against certain schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Notwithstanding Section 2, a public K-12 school athletic team may not compete against or otherwise play a nonpublic school athletic team in any post-season championship program or other interscholastic athletic event occurring after the sport's regular season.

Section 2. (a) For the purposes of this section, the term "athletic association" means any association of public or nonpublic K-12 schools that acts as an organizing, sanctioning, scheduling, or rulemaking body for interscholastic athletic events in which students in this state participate.

(b) A public K-12 school may not be a member of an athletic association that prohibits, or discourages through the use of a communication, policy, procedure, ranking, or other instrument designed to discourage, its member schools from competing or participating in a contest against or otherwise engaging in an athletic event with a nonmember school, including, but not limited to, a scrimmage game, jamboree, or match.

(c) A public K-12 school may not be a member of an athletic association that unreasonably withholds its approval or support of another athletic association's application to become an affiliate member of the National Federation of State High School Associations within this state.

(d) A public K-12 school may not compete or participate



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in a contest against or otherwise engage in an athletic event with a school that is not a member of the athletic association in which the public K-12 school is a member unless the nonmember school is a member of an athletic association that does all of the following:

(1) Mandates a preparticipation physical examination for all students before they may participate in tryouts, practices, or interscholastic athletic events.

(2) Implements a comprehensive concussion management and return-to-play protocol that includes all of the following:

a. The dissemination of an informational sheet on the risks of concussions to a parent or legal guardian of a student participating in an athletic event before the program starts.

b. The immediate removal and evaluation of a student who shows symptoms of a concussion during an athletic event by a qualified health care provider.

c. A prohibition against a student participating in an athletic event after being diagnosed with a concussion until a qualified health care provider medically clears the student to return to participation.

(3) Complies with rules established by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

(4) Complies with the competition rules set by the athletic association that governs the public K-12 school.

(5) Restricts participation in competition to high school athletes who are under 19 years of age on August 1 of



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that school year.

(6) Uses only game officials who are certified through assessments conducted in accordance with the National Federation of State High School Associations' rules and procedures.

(7) Complies with all other requirements under state laws, including, but not limited to, Chapter 30D of Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to do either of the following:

(1) Influence the membership status or governance of nonpublic schools that are members of an athletic association that is primarily composed of public K-12 schools.

(2) Affect the autonomy granted to nonpublic K-12 schools under the laws of this state.

Section 3. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2025.