

HB221 INTRODUCED



1 HB221
2 AR8XM77-1
3 By Representative Paramore
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 14-Jan-26



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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, public K-12 schools have the
6 sole authority for selecting which media organizations
7 may broadcast regular season sporting events.

8 This bill would expand that authority to include
9 the broadcast of all post regular season sporting
10 events.

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13 A BILL

14 TO BE ENTITLED

15 AN ACT

16
17 Relating to education; to amend Section 16-1-53, Code
18 of Alabama 1975; to further provide for the sole authority of
19 a public K-12 school to determine which media organizations
20 may broadcast post regular season sporting events.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

22 Section 1. Section 16-1-53, Code of Alabama 1975, is
23 amended to read as follows:

24 "§16-1-53

25 (a) For the purposes of this section, the following
26 terms have the following meanings:

27 (1) BROADCAST. To transmit or exhibit video~~or~~audioor photographs in any medium or manner accessible by

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29 televisions, radios, computers, or other Internet enabled
30 devices.

31 (2) COVER. To observe for reporting purposes and
32 conduct broadcasts of the event being reported.

33 (3) MEDIA ORGANIZATION. A newspaper, news wire, radio
34 station, television station, television network, website, or
35 other organization that publishes or broadcasts, at regular
36 intervals, print, digital, or audio media.

37 (b) (1) —No Except as provided in subdivision (2), no
38 individual, firm, corporation, or association shall interfere
39 with or restrict in any manner the ability of media
40 organizations to cover or broadcast, in any form or format,
41 regular season and post regular season sporting events,
42 including, without limitation, all playoffs and championships
43 involving K-12 schools.

44 (2) Each school, grades K through 12, shall have the
45 sole authority to determine which media organization or media
46 organizations are permitted to cover or broadcast a regular
47 season and post regular season sporting event, including,
48 without limitation, all playoffs and championships, and to
49 contract for the broadcast of regular and post regular season
50 sporting events involving that school."

51 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
52 1, 2026.