

# HB567 INTRODUCED



1 HB567  
2 I32BIW6-1  
3 By Representative Gray  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 05-Mar-26



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create the Student Athlete Eligibility and Career Transition Act.

This bill would provide for the tracking of the academic and athletic progress, including National College Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility, of public high school students and the provision of information to those students regarding available paths and career opportunities including college enrollment, military enlistment, or workforce entry.

This bill would provide for the creation and implementation of individualized transition plans for all students that identify postsecondary goals and required steps to achieve those goals.

This bill would also require the State Department of Education to develop implementation guidelines and provide training resources for schools.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 athletics; to create the Student Athlete Eligibility and Career Transition Act; to



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29 provide students with early academic and athletic tracking for  
30 National College Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility; to  
31 provide information on postsecondary opportunities, career  
32 readiness, and competitiveness in collegiate athletics; to  
33 establish career transition planning support; and to require  
34 the State Department of Education to develop implementation  
35 guidelines and training resources for schools.

36 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

37 Section 1. (a) This section shall be known and may be  
38 cited as the Student Athlete Eligibility and Career Transition  
39 Act.

40 (b) The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
41 following:

42 (1) Due to the evolving rules and regulations in  
43 collegiate athletics, including the National College Athletic  
44 Association (NCAA) transfer portal and national recruitment  
45 standards, students in this state require earlier and more  
46 intentional academic and athletic planning.

47 (2) NCAA initial eligibility requirements are uniform  
48 across all sports and genders, and a structured approach  
49 beginning in the ninth grade is necessary to ensure all  
50 student athletes have the opportunity to qualify.

51 (3) Early eligibility tracking will enable students to  
52 make informed decisions their junior and senior years  
53 regarding college, military service, or workforce entry.

54 (4) Providing exposure to various postsecondary paths  
55 and transition plans will increase readiness and allow local  
56 industries to recruit disciplined and prepared talent directly



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57 from high schools.

58 (c) For the purposes of this section, the following  
59 terms have the following meanings:

60 (1) NCAA ELIGIBILITY TRACKING. The process of  
61 monitoring a student's academic progress, coursework, and  
62 athletic participation in alignment with NCAA Division I and  
63 II initial eligibility standards.

64 (2) TRANSITION PLAN. A structured postsecondary pathway  
65 plan developed with input from students, parents, and  
66 counselors, focusing on one or more of the following: college  
67 enrollment, military enlistment, or workforce entry.

68 (d) (1) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, all  
69 public high schools in the State of Alabama shall:

70 a. Implement NCAA eligibility tracking for all students  
71 beginning in the ninth grade;

72 b. Designate a staff member, such as a guidance  
73 counselor or athletic director, to oversee and report on NCAA  
74 tracking progress for each student athlete;

75 c. Provide annual updates to student athletes and their  
76 families on NCAA eligibility status beginning at the end of  
77 ninth grade;

78 d. Develop and implement individualized transition  
79 plans for all students by the beginning of their eleventh  
80 grade year, with the goal of identifying postsecondary goals  
81 and required steps to achieve them; and

82 e. Offer exposure opportunities, such as career fairs,  
83 military information sessions, and college readiness  
84 workshops, to inform students of available paths and career



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85 opportunities.

86 (2) Schools may collaborate with local employers,  
87 military recruiters, community colleges, and universities to  
88 enhance transition planning and recruiting pipelines.

89 (e) (1) The State Department of Education shall develop  
90 implementation guidelines and provide training resources to  
91 assist schools in complying with the requirements of this  
92 section.

93 (2) The department shall monitor compliance, collect  
94 annual data on student eligibility tracking, and report  
95 outcomes to the State Board of Education and the Chairs of the  
96 Senate Education Policy Committee and the House Education  
97 Policy Committee on or before December 31, 2027, and annually  
98 thereafter.

99 Section 2. This act shall become effective on July 1,  
100 2026.