

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1983 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY CONKLIN, DELLOSO, FLICK, N. NELSON, PROBST,  
SANCHEZ, STRUZZI, C. WILLIAMS AND HILL-EVANS,  
JANUARY 31, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 31, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in interscholastic athletics  
6 accountability, providing for playoffs and championships.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 1606-A. Playoffs and Championships.--(a) The  
13 association may establish separate playoffs and championships  
14 for athletics for boundary schools and nonboundary schools.

15 (b) (1) Prior to establishing separate playoffs and  
16 championships for athletics under subsection (a), the board and  
17 the oversight committee shall conduct at least one joint meeting  
18 in each of the districts that comprise the association.

19 (2) The meetings shall be open to the public in accordance

1 with 65 Pa.C.S. § 704 (relating to open meetings).

2 (3) Notice of each meeting shall be given in compliance with  
3 65 Pa.C.S. § 709 (relating to public notice).

4 (4) Minutes of the proceedings of each meeting shall be kept  
5 in accordance with 65 Pa.C.S. § 706 (relating to minutes of  
6 meetings, public records and recording of meetings).

7 (5) The board and oversight committee shall accept sworn  
8 testimony and comments from individuals relating to whether  
9 playoffs should or should not be separated for all or certain  
10 athletics for boundary and nonboundary schools. The board and  
11 the oversight committee may accept written testimony during each  
12 meeting and comments through electronic submission, which must  
13 be submitted no later than ten (10) days after the last  
14 scheduled public meeting.

15 (c) (1) No later than ten (10) days after the meetings in  
16 subsection (b) are complete, the board shall hold an open  
17 meeting pursuant to 65 Pa.C.S. § 704 to deliberate the  
18 establishment of separate playoffs and championships for  
19 athletics for boundary and nonboundary schools.

20 (2) At the open meetings, the board shall discuss all of the  
21 following:

22 (i) Whether the association will require that all sports,  
23 certain sports or no sports conduct separate playoffs and  
24 championships for boundary and nonboundary schools.

25 (ii) If a determination is made that separate playoffs and  
26 championships will be required, the board shall discuss the  
27 fiscal impact the requirement may or may not have on boundary  
28 and nonboundary schools.

29 (iii) All relevant testimony and comments provided during  
30 the district hearings that provide rationale in support or

1 opposition to separate playoffs and championships for boundary  
2 and nonboundary schools.

3 (3) The board shall reserve time for public comments from  
4 individuals in attendance at the meeting before rendering a  
5 final decision.

6 (4) After the public comment period in paragraph (3) has  
7 closed, the board shall recess to executive session to  
8 deliberate the following options:

9 (i) returning to the public meeting to hold a vote to alter  
10 playoffs and championships for all sports;

11 (ii) returning to the public meeting to hold a vote to alter  
12 playoffs and championships for certain sports; or

13 (iii) returning to the public meeting to make a statement  
14 and justify why no changes are being made to playoffs and  
15 championships for any sports.

16 (5) Once the board selects an option under paragraph (4),  
17 the public meeting shall resume and the chosen option shall be  
18 implemented.

19 (d) No later than five (5) days after the meeting in  
20 subsection (c), the association shall provide its decision in  
21 writing to the oversight committee along with the reasoning  
22 behind the decision.

23 (e) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
24 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
25 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

26 "Board." The Executive Board of the Pennsylvania  
27 Interscholastic Athletic Association.

28 "Boundary school." A public school. The term does not  
29 include a charter school.

30 "Nonboundary school." A charter school, a parochial school

1 or a private school.

2 "Oversight committee." The Pennsylvania Athletic Oversight  
3 Committee established in section 1605-A.

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 30 days.