

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 919 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY CONKLIN, BARRAR, CALTAGIRONE, FEE, FRITZ,
 GALLOWAY, GILLEN, HARKINS, IRVIN, LONGIETTI, McCLINTON,
 MULLINS, PYLE, READSHAW, ROAE, SANKEY, WHEELAND AND WILLIAMS,
 JUNE 24, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 24, 2019

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 pursuant to 65

1 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" shall mean the Executive Board of the Pennsylvania
27 Interscholastic Athletic Association.

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

30 "Nonboundary school" shall mean a charter school, a parochial

1 school or a private school.

2 "Oversight Committee" shall mean the Pennsylvania Athletic

3 Oversight Committee established in section 1605-A.

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