

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1600 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY BERNSTINE, BARRAR, IRVIN, SIMMONS, JONES, KAIL, MIHALEK, STAATS, O'NEAL, ORTITAY, DeLUCA, SOLOMON, TOBASH, PUSKARIC, SCHMITT, FEE, SANKEY, ROAE, ROTHMAN, SCHROEDER, EVERETT, FRITZ, PICKETT, GAYDOS, RYAN, PYLE, ROZZI AND READSHAW, JUNE 17, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 17, 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, for transfer and for
 7 district committees.

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

10 Section 1. Article XVI-A of the act of March 10, 1949
 11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
 12 amended by adding sections to read:

13 Section 1606-A. Playoffs.--(a) The following provisions
 14 shall apply to football, boys' basketball, boys' soccer, girls'
 15 soccer, girls' basketball, girls' volleyball, baseball and
 16 softball interscholastic athletics in this Commonwealth:

17 (1) For the purpose of interdistrict playoffs, separate
 18 playoff systems shall be established by the association for
 19 athletics for public schools and nonpublic schools, except that

1 the championship shall be between the public school champion and
2 nonpublic school champion that won in the separate playoff
3 systems. There shall be an equal number of public and nonpublic
4 schools in each interdistrict playoff system. If there is an
5 insufficient number of qualified nonpublic schools in a
6 particular classification equal to those in the public school
7 playoffs, the nonpublic school playoffs in that classification
8 may still be held. Interdistrict playoff brackets for nonpublic
9 schools shall be determined by the nonpublic school
10 representative on the association's board of directors.

11 (2) If a team forfeits two (2) or more regular season games
12 in one season, that team shall be ineligible for association
13 playoffs.

14 (3) The association may determine whether the separate
15 interdistrict playoff system is utilized in other sports if
16 there are at least fifty (50) public schools and fifty (50)
17 nonpublic schools participating in the sport.

18 Section 1607-A. Transfer.--(a) A student shall be
19 immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics
20 after transferring schools as long as the student meets all
21 other eligibility standards, including, but not limited to, age,
22 limit of eligibility, per-participation physical exam, grade
23 point average and consent and liability release at the school
24 which the student attends.

25 (b) The association may restrict in-season transfer
26 eligibility in a given sport when a transfer occurs after more
27 than one-half of the regular season contests have been played,
28 but shall allow in-season eligibility in instances where exigent
29 circumstances are present, including, but not limited to,
30 transfers resulting from change of residence, military-related

1 relocations or economic necessity.

2 Section 1608-A. District Committees.--(a) For the purposes
3 of organization, legislation and administration, the association
4 must be divided into athletic districts as established under the
5 bylaws of the association.

6 (b) Each athletic district shall establish a district
7 committee that shall exercise powers and duties as established
8 in the bylaws of the association.

9 (c) The makeup of each district committee shall be decided
10 by the members of that particular athletic district subject to
11 the requirements of the bylaws of the association, provided that
12 the representation of public and nonpublic schools is
13 proportional to the number of public and nonpublic schools in
14 the athletic district.

15 (d) Neither the association nor district committees may
16 sanction or permit the following:

17 (1) The formation of a league by members of the association
18 in which nonpublic school members are excluded from league
19 membership.

20 (2) Association members to refuse to schedule regular season
21 contests with nonpublic school members.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.