
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1289 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SCAVELLO, ARNOLD, BARTOLOTTA, MASTRIANO, J. WARD,
ARGALL, GORDNER AND REGAN, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

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 preliminary provisions, providing
6 for interscholastic athletics during disaster emergency.

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 129. Interscholastic Athletics During Disaster
13 Emergency.--(a) Notwithstanding 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301 (relating to
14 general authority of Governor) or any other provision of law, an
15 executive order may not prohibit a parent or guardian from
16 monitoring, in person, the safety of their children at an
17 interscholastic sporting event during a disaster emergency. If
18 admission is charged for admittance into an interscholastic
19 sporting event, a parent or guardian under this subsection shall
20 be responsible for paying the admission.

1 (b) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
2 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
3 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

4 "Disaster emergency." A declaration of disaster emergency
5 made in accordance with 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301.

6 "Interscholastic athletics." All athletic contests or
7 competitions conducted between or among school entities.

8 "Interscholastic sporting event." Any of the following
9 conducted for grades kindergarten through twelve:

10 (1) Interscholastic athletics.

11 (2) An athletic contest or competition, other than
12 interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated
13 with a school entity, including cheerleading, club-sponsored
14 sports activities and sports activities sponsored by school-
15 affiliated organizations.

16 (3) Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or
17 associated with a school entity.

18 (4) Practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for all
19 of the activities listed under clauses (1), (2) and (3).

20 "Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school, other than a school
21 entity, wherein a resident of this Commonwealth may legally
22 fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements of this
23 act and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil
24 Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

25 "School entity." A school district, joint school district,
26 charter school, regional charter school, public school,
27 nonpublic school, private school, intermediate unit or area
28 career and technical school.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.