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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 443 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY CONKLIN, HILL-EVANS, SMITH, CIRESI AND WAXMAN,  
MAY 20, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, MAY 20, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association,  
2 Inc., to adopt separate playoff systems for public schools  
3 and private and charter schools.

4 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic  
5 Association, Inc., (PIAA) is a nonprofit corporation formed in  
6 Pittsburgh on December 29, 1913, by high school principals with  
7 the intent of eliminating abuses and establishing uniform rules;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, According to Article II of the PIAA Constitution,  
10 the purpose of the PIAA is to:

11 (1) Organize, develop and direct an interscholastic  
12 athletic program which will promote, protect and conserve the  
13 health and physical welfare of all participants.

14 (2) Formulate and maintain policies that will safeguard  
15 the educational values of interscholastic athletics and  
16 cultivate the high ideals of good sportsmanship.

17 (3) Promote uniformity of standards in all  
18 interscholastic athletic competition;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 1 of the PIAA Constitution  
3 states: "Member schools shall be divided each even-numbered  
4 years into classes based upon criteria established by the Board  
5 of Directors"; and

6 WHEREAS, Article VII of the PIAA Constitution grants the  
7 board the authority "To exercise such other powers as are in  
8 keeping with the growth and needs of PIAA and which are  
9 consistent with the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws,  
10 Policies and Procedures, and Rules and Regulations of PIAA"; and

11 WHEREAS, Article VI of the PIAA Constitution grants the board  
12 of directors the authority "To have general control of Inter-  
13 District Championship Contests"; and

14 WHEREAS, The PIAA has used their authority in the past to  
15 implement changes to promote fairness and further the purposes  
16 enumerated in Article II of the PIAA Constitution, including a  
17 recent increase in district classification from four to six in  
18 2015; and

19 WHEREAS, Act 219 of 1972 permitted private schools to join  
20 the PIAA but did not prohibit separate playoffs; and

21 WHEREAS, As a PIAA member, public schools may build sports  
22 teams from only those students who live within the geographical  
23 boundaries of the school district; and

24 WHEREAS, Private and charter schools that are members of the  
25 PIAA may recruit students based on academics without  
26 consideration of geographical boundaries, giving these schools  
27 the opportunity to build competitive sports teams and an unfair  
28 advantage over public schools; and

29 WHEREAS, Of the 36 State titles awarded in basketball in the  
30 past three seasons, nine were won by public schools and 27 were

1 won by private and charter schools even though private and  
2 charter schools make up approximately 20% of the schools in the  
3 State; and

4 WHEREAS, The student benefits of winning State titles include  
5 an increase in confidence, recognition, media coverage and an  
6 increase in college recruitment opportunities; and

7 WHEREAS, A fair opportunity to win championships in sports  
8 could be provided to public school students if the PIAA would  
9 establish separate playoffs for public schools and private and  
10 charter schools; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the  
12 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc., to  
13 adopt separate playoff systems for public schools and private  
14 and charter schools to provide fairness and equality in junior  
15 high school, middle school and high school sports and to further  
16 the purposes enumerated in Article II of the PIAA Constitution.