

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2009-153

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/26/09

87th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2009

SENATE BILL 842

By: Senator G. Baker

Filed with: Senate Interim Committee on Education
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

*AN ACT TO ALLOW HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO
PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

*TO ALLOW HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO
PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC
ACTIVITIES.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 5 is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:*

*6-15-509. Participation of home-schooled students in interscholastic
activities.*

*(a) The General Assembly recognizes that all students should have
equal access to interscholastic activities as a complement to the academic
curriculum.*

(b) As used in this section:

*(1) "Athletic activities" means a varsity sport and any activity
related to a competitive sports contest, game, event, or exhibition that
involves an individual student or teams of students whether the activity
occurs among schools within the resident school district or between schools
outside of the resident school district;*



1 (2) "Interscholastic activity" means any interschool activity
2 that is outside the regular curriculum of a public school district, including
3 without limitation an athletic activity, a fine arts program, and a special
4 interest club or group that is subject to regulations of the Arkansas
5 Activities Association; and

6 (3) "Resident school district" means the public school district
7 in which the home-schooled student resides.

8 (c) A resident school district shall permit a home-schooled student to
9 participate in any interscholastic activity, provided that the home-schooled
10 student:

11 (1) Advises the resident school in writing of the student's
12 intent to participate in the interscholastic activity;

13 (2) Meets the eligibility criteria for participation in the
14 interscholastic activity that apply to students enrolled in the resident
15 school district, including standards of behavior and codes of conduct;

16 (3) Meets the tryout criteria for participation in the
17 interscholastic activity that apply to students enrolled in the resident
18 school district;

19 (4) Demonstrates educational progress by submitting a norm-
20 referenced standardized test score, taken within nine (9) months of advising
21 the resident school of the student's intent to participate in an
22 interscholastic activity, on which the student's composite score is at or
23 above the 35th percentile;

24 (5) Complies with all policies, rules, and regulations of the
25 Arkansas Activities Association and the governing organization of the
26 interscholastic activity; and

27 (6) Pays any participation or activity fee equal to the fee
28 charged to students enrolled in the resident school district who participate
29 in the interscholastic activity.

30 (d)(1) When the interscholastic activity requires completion of a
31 physical examination or medical test as a condition of participation and the
32 resident school district offers the physical examination or medical test to
33 students enrolled in the resident school district, the resident school
34 district shall permit a home-schooled student to take the physical
35 examination or medical test.

36 (2) The resident school district shall publish the dates and

1 times of the physical examination or medical test on its publicly accessible
2 website.

3 (e) Insurance coverage provided by a public school district for
4 participants in interscholastic activities shall cover a participating home-
5 schooled student.

6 (f)(1) A public school team or group shall not be impeded from
7 competing against any other public or nonpublic school team or group because
8 the team or group utilized a home-schooled student as provided under this
9 section.

10 (2) A public school district is prohibited from membership in an
11 organization which regulates or governs interscholastic activities and
12 discriminates against an eligible student in a public or nonpublic school,
13 including a home-schooled student.

14 (g) The resident school district may adopt a policy to implement the
15 requirements of this section, provided that the policy applies only to
16 participation in interscholastic activities and does not conflict with this
17 section.

18 /s/ G. Baker