

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 531

By: Senator B. King

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETIC GAMES HELD BETWEEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

CONCERNING CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETIC GAMES HELD BETWEEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-18-114. Athletic activity – State championship.

(a) The Arkansas Activities Association shall create two (2) separate:

(1) Athletic conference systems for public schools and private schools; and

(2)(A) Play-off systems for public schools and private schools.

(B) The winner of the public school play-off game shall be the public school champion.

(C) The winner of the private school play-off game shall be the private school champion.

(b) The association may establish an overall state championship system according to how the association classifies the teams.

(c)(1) If a public school athletic team wins a state championship game against a private school athletic team, then the public school athletic team shall be considered the overall state champion and the public school state



champion.

(2)(A) However, if a public school athletic team loses a state championship game against a private school, the public school athletic team shall be considered only the public school state champion.

(B) This subsection (c) shall be retroactive to a public school athletic team that has played against and lost to a private school athletic team before the effective date of this act.

(d)(1) If a private school athletic team wins a state championship game against a public school athletic team, then the private school athletic team shall be considered the overall state champion and the private school state champion.

(2)(A) However, if a private school athletic team loses a state championship game against a public school, the private school athletic team shall be considered only the private school state champion.

(B) This subsection (d) shall be retroactive to a private school athletic team that has played against and lost to a public school athletic team before the effective date of this act.

(e) As used in this section, "athletic team" means the student or group of students who participate in a school-affiliated sport at the school in which he or she is enrolled.