

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

SENATE BILL 538

By: Senator B. Davis
By: Representative Hawk

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ALLOW A STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE WITH A NON-SCHOOL ATHLETIC TEAM THAT IS OF THE SAME SPORT AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ATHLETIC TEAM OF WHICH THE STUDENT IS A MEMBER UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ALLOW A STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE WITH A NON-SCHOOL ATHLETIC TEAM THAT IS OF THE SAME SPORT AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ATHLETIC TEAM OF WHICH THE STUDENT IS A MEMBER UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

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. Student participation on athletic team – Eligibility to participate in non-school athletic activity – Definitions.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Athletic team" means a varsity sport or another competitive sports-related contest, game, event, or exhibition that involves individual students or teams of students either among public schools within a public school district or between public schools within two (2) or more public school districts;

(2) "Interscholastic activity" means an interschool activity



that is not included in a regular curriculum, including without limitation sports and special interest clubs or groups that are subject to regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association;

(3) "Participate" means to:

(A) Try out for an interscholastic activity or athletic team;

(B) Practice with an athletic team or a group or team associated with an interscholastic activity;

(C) Be a member of an athletic team or a group or team associated with an interscholastic activity; or

(D) Play with an athletic team or a group or team associated with an interscholastic activity; and

(4) "Season" means the beginning date through the end of the state tournament of an interscholastic activity, as established by the association.

(b)(1) A student who is a member of a public school athletic team and who has engaged in a competition for an interscholastic activity may participate with a non-school athletic team that is of the same sport as the public school athletic team of which the student is a member during the same season in which the student participates on the public school athletic team without losing eligibility to participate on the public school athletic team of which the student is a member.

(2) A student shall not participate with a non-school athletic team as permitted under subdivision (b)(1) of this section on days when the public school athletic team of which the student is a member is scheduled to practice, compete, or otherwise play.