

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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SENATE BILL 361

Short Title: Interscholastic Sports Open to All Students. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Tillman, Hise; Blake, Brock, Brown, Daniel, East, Forrester, Harrington, Hartsell, Hunt, Pate, Preston, and Rabon.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

March 17, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT PERMITTING STUDENTS WHO ATTEND A PUBLIC SCHOOL, PRIVATE
3 SCHOOL, HOME SCHOOL, OR CHARTER SCHOOL WITHOUT AN
4 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS PROGRAM IN A GIVEN SPORT TO
5 PARTICIPATE IN THAT SPORT AT A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12(23) reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 115C-12. Powers and duties of the Board generally.**

9 The general supervision and administration of the free public school system shall be vested
10 in the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall establish policy for the
11 system of free public schools, subject to laws enacted by the General Assembly. The powers
12 and duties of the State Board of Education are defined as follows:

13 ...

14 (23) Power to Adopt Eligibility Rules for Interscholastic Athletic Competition. –
15 The State Board of Education may adopt rules governing interscholastic
16 athletic activities conducted by local boards of education, including
17 eligibility for student participation. These rules shall provide that any high
18 school student who attends one of the following:

19 a. A public high school that does not have an interscholastic athletics
20 program in a given sport may participate in that sport at the high
21 school closest to the student's school that has a program in that sport,
22 subject to the terms and conditions applicable to a regularly enrolled
23 member of that school's student body.

24 b. A private school, home school, or charter school that does not have
25 an interscholastic athletics program in a given sport may participate
26 in that sport at the base public high school for the student's address,
27 subject to the terms and conditions applicable to a regularly enrolled
28 member of that school's student body. If the student's base school
29 does not have a program in the sport, the student may participate in
30 the sport at the public high school closest to the student's base school
31 that has a program in that sport, subject to the terms and conditions
32 applicable to a regularly enrolled member of that school's student
33 body.

34 The State Board of Education may authorize a designated organization to apply and enforce
35 the Board's rules governing participation in interscholastic athletic activities at the high school
36 level."



1 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
2 the 2011-2012 school year.