

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

H.B. 600
Apr 6, 2015
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE DRH40256-LE-97A (03/19)

Short Title: Home Schoolers Participate in School Sports. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Cleveland.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT RELATING TO PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC
3 PROGRAMS BY STUDENTS ATTENDING HOME SCHOOLS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

6 "(23) Power to Adopt Eligibility Rules for Interscholastic Athletic Competition. –
7 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules governing interscholastic
8 athletic activities conducted by local boards of education, including
9 eligibility for student participation. Students attending home schools shall be
10 permitted to participate in interscholastic athletic activities in accordance
11 with the requirements of this subdivision. With regard to middle schools and
12 high schools, the rules shall provide for the following:

13 a. All coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, first responders,
14 volunteers, students who participate in interscholastic athletic
15 activities, and the parents of those students shall receive, on an
16 annual basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet. School
17 employees, first responders, volunteers, and students must sign the
18 sheet and return it to the coach before they can participate in
19 interscholastic athletic activities, including tryouts, practices, or
20 competition. Parents must sign the sheet and return it to the coach
21 before their children can participate in any such interscholastic
22 athletic activities. The signed sheets shall be maintained in
23 accordance with sub-subdivision d. of this subdivision.

24 For the purpose of this subdivision, a concussion is a traumatic
25 brain injury caused by a direct or indirect impact to the head that
26 results in disruption of normal brain function, which may or may not
27 result in loss of consciousness.

28 b. If a student participating in an interscholastic athletic activity
29 exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with concussion, the student
30 shall be removed from the activity at that time and shall not be
31 allowed to return to play or practice that day. The student shall not
32 return to play or practice on a subsequent day until the student is
33 evaluated by and receives written clearance for such participation
34 from (i) a physician licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the
35 General Statutes with training in concussion management, (ii) a
36 neuropsychologist licensed under Article 18A of Chapter 90 of the



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1 General Statutes with training in concussion management and
2 working in consultation with a physician licensed under Article 1 of
3 Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, (iii) an athletic trainer licensed
4 under Article 34 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, (iv) a
5 physician assistant, consistent with the limitations of G.S. 90-18.1, or
6 (v) a nurse practitioner, consistent with the limitations of
7 G.S. 90-18.2.

- 8 c. Each school shall develop a venue specific emergency action plan to
9 deal with serious injuries and acute medical conditions in which the
10 condition of the patient may deteriorate rapidly. The plan shall
11 include a delineation of roles, methods of communication, available
12 emergency equipment, and access to and plan for emergency
13 transport. This plan must be (i) in writing, (ii) reviewed by an athletic
14 trainer licensed in North Carolina, (iii) approved by the principal of
15 the school, (iv) distributed to all appropriate personnel, (v) posted
16 conspicuously at all venues, and (vi) reviewed and rehearsed
17 annually by all licensed athletic trainers, first responders, coaches,
18 school nurses, athletic directors, and volunteers for interscholastic
19 athletic activities.
- 20 d. Each school shall maintain complete and accurate records of its
21 compliance with the requirements of this subdivision pertaining to
22 head injuries.

23 The State Board of Education may authorize a designated organization to
24 apply and enforce the Board's rules governing participation in interscholastic
25 athletic activities at the high school level. The State Board of Education shall
26 not designate any such organization that does not deem eligible for
27 participation a student who (i) is attending a home school in accordance with
28 Part 3 of Article 39 of this Chapter; (ii) has met established academic
29 eligibility requirements for athletic participation in all subjects taken in the
30 home schooled program by a method of evaluation agreed upon by the
31 parent and the school principal; (iii) meets the residency criteria of
32 G.S. 115C-366; and (iv) meets the same standards of acceptance, behavior,
33 and performance as required of enrolled public school students participating
34 in interscholastic athletics, except that a home schooled student shall not be
35 required to meet school enrollment requirements. Eligibility of a student
36 attending a home school shall be limited to participation in interscholastic
37 programs at the school serving the attendance zone in which the student
38 lives. Nothing in this section shall require a local school board to establish a
39 policy permitting participation in interscholastic programs at its schools by
40 students attending home schools.

41 Reasonable fees may be charged to students receiving home instruction
42 to cover the costs of participation in such interscholastic programs, including
43 the costs of additional insurance, uniforms, or equipment."

44 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
45 the 2015-2016 school year.