HB91

9I92BMP-1

By Representative Stubbs

RFD: Education Policy

First Read: 06-Feb-24

PFD: 05-Feb-24

SYNOPSIS:

This bill would prohibit public K-12 schools from being members of certain athletic associations.

This bill would also prohibit public K-12 schools from competing in athletic events against certain other schools.

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 schools; to prohibit membership in certain athletic associations; and to prohibit athletic competition against certain schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the term "athletic association" means any association of public or nonpublic K-12 schools that acts as an organizing, sanctioning, scheduling, or rulemaking body for interscholastic athletic events in which students in this state participate.

(b) No public K-12 school that benefits from state funding may be a member of an athletic association that prohibits, or discourages through the use of a communication,

policy, procedure, ranking, or other instrument designed to discourage, its member schools from competing or participating in a contest against or otherwise engaging in an athletic event with a non-member school, including, but not limited to, a scrimmage game, jamboree, or match.

(c) No public K-12 school may be a member of an athletic association that unreasonably withholds its approval or support of another athletic association's application to become an affiliate member of the National Federation of State High School Associations within this state.

(d) No public K-12 school that benefits from state funding may compete or participate in a contest against or otherwise engage in an athletic event with a school that is not a member of the athletic association in which the public K-12 school is a member if the non-member school is a member of an athletic association that does not do all of the following:

(1) Mandate a preparticipation physical examination for all students before they may participate in tryouts, practices, or interscholastic athletic events.

(2) Implement a comprehensive concussion management and return-to-play protocol that includes all of the following:

a. The dissemination of an informational sheet on the risks of concussions to a parent or legal guardian of a student participating in an athletic event before the program starts.

b. The immediate removal and evaluation of a student who shows symptoms of a concussion during an athletic event by

a qualified health care provider.

c. A prohibition against a student participating in an athletic event after being diagnosed with a concussion until a qualified health care provider medically clears the student to return to participation.

(3) Comply with rules established by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

(4) Comply with the competition rules set by the athletic association that governs the public K-12 school.

(5) Restrict participation in competition to high-school athletes who are under 19 years of age on August 1 of that school year.

(6) Use only game officials who are certified through assessments conducted in accordance with the National Federation of State High School Associations' rules and procedures.

(7) Comply with all other requirements under state laws, including, but not limited to, Chapter 30D of Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to do either of the following:

(1) Influence the membership status or governance of nonpublic schools that are members of an athletic association that is primarily composed of public K-12 schools.

(2) Affect the autonomy granted to nonpublic K-12 schools under the laws of this state.

Section 2. This act shall become effective on July 1, 2024.