

House Bill 161

By: Representatives Harbin of the 118th, Anderson of the 117th, and Sims of the 119th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-316 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 involvement of athletic associations in high school athletics, so as to provide that no public
3 high school which receives funds under the Quality Basic Education Act shall participate in
4 or sponsor interscholastic competition administered by a high school association unless the
5 high school association meets certain criteria related to the average distance required for
6 travel to region athletic competitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
7 laws; and for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 20-2-316 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
11 involvement of athletic associations in high school athletics, is amended by revising
12 subsection (b) to read as follows:

13 "(b) No high school which receives funding under this article shall participate in, sponsor,
14 or provide coaching staff for interscholastic sports events which are conducted under the
15 authority of, conducted under the rules of, or scheduled by any athletic association unless
16 the charter, bylaws, or other governing documents of such athletic association comply with
17 this Code section. In order to comply with this Code section, such charter, bylaws, or other
18 governing documents shall provide that:

19 (1) The athletic association shall comply with the requirements of subsections (a)
20 through (f) of Code Section 20-2-315, as those requirements relate to the athletic
21 association's functions of organizing, sanctioning, scheduling, or rule making for events
22 in which public high schools participate;

23 (2) The athletic association shall comply with the requirements of Article 4 of
24 Chapter 18 of Title 50, relating to the inspection of public records, and Chapter 14 of
25 Title 50, relating to open and public meetings, to the extent that such records and
26 meetings relate to the athletic association's activities with respect to public high schools;

27 provided, however, that such athletic association shall not be required to comply with
 28 such statutes or to conduct open and public meetings or provide inspection of records
 29 where the sole subject of such meeting or record pertains to the academic records or
 30 performance of an individual student or the eligibility of an individual student to
 31 participate or to continue to participate in sponsored events or contests based on
 32 academics; provided, further, however, that where a meeting or record of such association
 33 is devoted in part to matters excepted in the preceding proviso, any portion of the meeting
 34 or record not subject to such exception shall be open to the public; ~~and~~

35 (3) The athletic association shall, no later than October 1, 2003, and every year
 36 thereafter, submit a report to the General Assembly regarding its compliance with
 37 paragraph (1) of this subsection. Such report shall address the number, type, and
 38 disposition of written requests for the association to organize and administer regional or
 39 state events for additional or different sports; written requests for information regarding
 40 the types of athletic events for public high school students that the association organizes
 41 and administers; and written inquiries and complaints received by the association with
 42 respect to gender discrimination in connection with public high school events. The report
 43 shall address all such written requests, inquiries, and complaints, regardless of whether
 44 such request, inquiry, or complaint is made by letter, e-mail, memorandum, or any other
 45 form of written communication. Each report shall cover the time period beginning on
 46 July 1 of the previous year and ending on June 30 of the year in which the report is due.
 47 The initial report due on October 1, 2003, shall cover the time periods of July 1, 2000,
 48 through June 30, 2001; July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2002; and July 1, 2002, through
 49 June 30, 2003. In addition, the athletic association shall have in effect a policy requiring
 50 notification to persons who make such requests, inquiries, or complaints verbally that
 51 such request, inquiry, or complaint will not be included in the association's reporting to
 52 the General Assembly regarding compliance with this Code section unless such request,
 53 inquiry, or complaint is made in writing; and

54 (4) When a high school is placed in a region classification in which the average round
 55 trip distance between that high school and its opponents in such region classification
 56 exceeds 200 miles, the athletic association shall permit such high school, upon reasonable
 57 notice to the athletic association, to have the option of competing in the next lower or
 58 higher classification level which results in the average round trip distance between that
 59 high school and its region opponents being 200 miles or less."

60 SECTION 2.

61 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.