

House Bill 809

By: Representatives Peake of the 137th, Rice of the 51st, Roberts of the 154th, Martin of the 47th, Davis of the 109th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for the creation of the High School
3 Athletics Overview Committee; to provide for its composition, powers, and duties; to provide
4 for reports; to provide for performance criteria; to provide for expenditure of funds; to
5 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
9 secondary education, is amended by revising Article 32, which was formerly reserved, to
10 read as follows:

11 "ARTICLE 32

12 20-2-2100.

13 (a) There is created as a joint committee of the General Assembly the High School
14 Athletics Overview Committee to be composed of five members of the House of
15 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom shall be a member
16 of the minority party; five members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on
17 Assignments, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party; the chairperson of the
18 House Committee on Education or his or her designee; and the chairperson of the Senate
19 Education and Youth Committee or his or her designee. The members of the committee
20 shall serve two-year terms concurrent with their terms as members of the General
21 Assembly. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate Committee on
22 Assignments shall each designate a cochairperson from among the appointees of their
23 respective houses. The cochairpersons shall serve terms of two years concurrent with their
24 terms as members of the General Assembly. Vacancies in an appointed member's position

25 or in the offices of cochairperson of the committee shall be filled for the unexpired term
26 in the same manner as the original appointment. The committee shall periodically inquire
27 into and review the operations of high school athletic associations, as defined in subsection
28 (c) of this Code section.

29 (b) No high school which receives funding under Article 6 of this chapter shall participate
30 in, sponsor, or provide coaching staff for interscholastic sports events which are conducted
31 under the authority of, conducted under the rules of, or scheduled by any high school
32 athletics association unless such association complies with the provisions of this article.

33 (c) As used in this Code section, the term 'committee' means the High School Athletics
34 Overview Committee, and the term 'high school athletic association' means any association
35 of schools or any other similar organization which acts as an organizing, sanctioning,
36 scheduling, or rule-making body for interscholastic athletic events in which public high
37 schools in this state participate.

38 20-2-2101.

39 The Department of Education, the Attorney General, and all other agencies of state
40 government, upon request by the committee, shall assist the committee in the discharge of
41 its duties set forth in this article. The committee may employ staff and may secure the
42 services of consultants as appropriate and subject to available funding. Upon authorization
43 by joint resolution of the General Assembly, the committee shall have the power while the
44 General Assembly is in session or during the interim between sessions to request the
45 attendance of witnesses and the production of documents in aid of its duties. In addition,
46 when the General Assembly is not in session, the committee shall have the power to
47 request the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents in aid of its duties,
48 upon application of the cochairpersons of the committee, with the concurrence of the
49 Speaker of the House and the Senate Committee on Assignments.

50 20-2-2102.

51 All high school athletic associations in this state shall cooperate with the committee, its
52 authorized personnel, the Attorney General, the Department of Education, and other state
53 agencies in order that the charges of the committee may be timely and efficiently
54 discharged. The associations shall submit to the committee such reports and data as the
55 committee shall reasonably require in order that the committee may adequately perform its
56 functions. The Attorney General is authorized to bring appropriate legal actions to enforce
57 any laws specifically or generally relating to the associations. The committee shall, on or
58 before the first day of January of each year, and at such other times as it deems necessary,

59 submit to the General Assembly a report of its findings and recommendations based upon
60 the review of the high school athletic associations, as set forth in this article.

61 20-2-2103.

62 In the discharge of its duties, the committee shall evaluate the performance of high school
63 athletic associations consistent with the following criteria:

64 (1) Fairness and equity in establishing and implementing its standards; and

65 (2) The promotion of academic achievement and good sportsmanship.

66 20-2-2104.

67 (a) The committee is authorized to expend state funds available to the committee for the
68 discharge of its duties. Said funds may be used for the purposes of compensating staff,
69 paying for services of consultants, and paying all other necessary expenses incurred by the
70 committee in performing its duties.

71 (b) The members of the committee shall receive the same compensation, per diem,
72 expenses, and allowances for their service on the committee as is authorized by law for
73 members of interim legislative study committees.

74 (c) The funds necessary for the purposes of the committee shall come from the funds
75 appropriated to and available to the legislative branch of government."

76 **SECTION 2.**

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