

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to HB 836:

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 automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
6 for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

12 "ARTICLE 32

13 20-2-2100.

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

25 in the same manner as the original appointment. The committee shall periodically inquire  
 26 into and review the operations of high school athletic associations, as defined in subsection  
 27 (c) of this Code section.

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

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

37 20-2-2101.

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

49 20-2-2102.

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

60 20-2-2103.

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

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

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

65 20-2-2104.

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

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

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

75 20-2-2105.

76 This article shall be repealed effective July 1, 2016."

77 **SECTION 2.**

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