

House Bill 870

By: Representatives Strickland of the 111<sup>th</sup>, England of the 116<sup>th</sup>, Meadows of the 5<sup>th</sup>,  
Dudgeon of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Reeves of the 34<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to certain programs and activities under the "Quality Basic Education  
3 Act," so as to provide that high schools that receive state funding cannot participate in an  
4 athletic association which prohibits religious expression on the clothing of student athletes;  
5 to provide that high schools that receive state funding cannot participate in an athletic  
6 association which prohibits member schools from organizing and playing scrimmage  
7 matches, games, or other athletic competitions with nonmember schools; to provide for  
8 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
12 relating to certain programs and activities under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is  
13 amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

14 "20-2-316.3.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'athletic association' means any association of  
16 schools or any other similar organization which acts as an organizing, sanctioning,  
17 scheduling, or rule-making body for interscholastic athletic events in which public high  
18 schools in this state participate.

19 (b) No high school which receives funding under this article shall participate in, sponsor,  
20 or provide coaching staff for interscholastic athletic events which are conducted under the  
21 authority of, conducted under the rules of, or scheduled by any athletic association which  
22 prohibits religious expression of student athletes other than as required to protect the safety  
23 of the participants or the conduct of the athletic event in a manner consistent with the rules  
24 of the particular athletic event.

25 (c) No high school which receives funding under this article shall participate in, sponsor,  
26 or provide coaching staff for interscholastic athletic events which are conducted under the

27 authority of, conducted under the rules of, or scheduled by any athletic association which  
28 prohibits its member schools from organizing and playing scrimmage games, matches, or  
29 other athletic competitions with schools which are not member schools even though:

30 (1) Prior to such athletic competition, the administrators of both schools agree in writing  
31 to participate in such competition;

32 (2) Each school is in compliance with the requirements of Code Section 20-2-319.2;

33 (3) Each school is in compliance with the requirements of Code Section 20-2-324.1; and

34 (4) Such athletic competitions are limited to high school student athletes."

35 **SECTION 2.**

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