

House Bill No. 7119

An act relating to interscholastic athletics; requiring the Florida High School Athletic Association to hold certain bylaws in abeyance; providing for creation of a task force to review student athlete recruiting issues; providing for task force membership and duties; requiring recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a review of recruiting violations by Florida High School Athletic Association member schools; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. (1) The Florida High School Athletic Association shall, until July 1, 2007, hold in abeyance the 2006-2007 revisions to sections 11.01, 11.02, 11.2, 11.3, and 11.4, Bylaws of the Florida High School Athletic Association, relating to student athlete residence and transfer, adopted pursuant to s. 1006.20, Florida Statutes.

(2) A Student Athlete Recruiting Task Force shall be created to review issues concerning recruiting of secondary school student athletes. The task force shall make recommendations that preserve the parental right to school choice while protecting the integrity of Florida's interscholastic athletic programs. The task force shall consider:

(a) The definition of recruiting.

(b) Current and proposed procedures governing recruiting of secondary school student athletes.

(c) Documented past recruiting practices and violations. Practices to be reviewed shall include, but not be limited to, the provision of tuition scholarships and other inducements, recruitment of foreign athletes, and active solicitation of student athletes and parents by school employees or boosters.

(d) The impact of student athlete recruiting rules on parental school choice.

(e) The relationship between student athlete transfers and recruiting, including the role of student athlete transfer rules in preventing recruiting.

(f) Measures for preventing improper student athlete recruiting and penalties for recruiting violations.

(g) Policies to allow students attending private schools that do not have athletic programs to participate in the athletic programs at their assigned public school.

(3) The task force shall be comprised of representatives from home school and public and private secondary school proponents and opponents of the

2006-2007 revisions to the bylaws specified in subsection (1). The task force members shall be appointed as follows:

(a) Three proponents of the bylaws and three opponents of the bylaws each appointed by the President of the Senate.

(b) Three proponents of the bylaws and three opponents of the bylaws each appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(c) A task force chair appointed by the Governor.

(4) Task force members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

(5) The task force shall be staffed by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability and be monitored by the Department of Education. The chair shall convene meetings of the task force as needed and shall ensure that the recommendations are completed and forwarded on time.

(6) The task force shall hold its initial meeting not later than June 1, 2006, and shall submit its recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2007. The task force shall dissolve upon rendering its recommendations.

Section 2. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall conduct an independent review of secondary school recruiting violations among Florida High School Athletic Association member schools and shall have full access to Florida High School Athletic Association records for the purpose of this review.

Section 3. The sum of \$60,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to support the work of the Student Athlete Recruiting Task Force.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 23, 2006.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 23, 2006.