2012

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to high school athletics; amending s.
3	1006.15, F.S.; expanding the eligibility of certain
4	students in private schools to participate in sports
5	programs in public schools; amending s. 1006.20, F.S.;
6	designating the Sunshine Independent Athletic
7	Association as the governing nonprofit organization of
8	athletics in private schools in this state; revising
9	provisions relating to the bylaws of the Florida High
10	School Athletic Association and providing for
11	organization, authority, and duties of the Sunshine
12	Independent Athletic Association; requiring the bylaws
13	of both associations to allow certain students who
14	transfer to a private school to participate in sports
15	offered by the school; requiring such bylaws to
16	regulate investigators used by the associations and
17	providing restrictions on investigations that are
18	conducted; requiring such bylaws to allow coaches to
19	coach in outside youth sports organizations;
20	prohibiting the Florida High School Athletic
21	Association from denying or discouraging
22	interscholastic competition between public and private
23	schools; providing for annual interscholastic
24	competition championships between public and nonpublic
25	high schools for each sport and competition level
26	offered in public and private high schools in this
27	state; providing procedures for appeals to the
28	Sunshine Independent Athletic Association; requiring
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29 that appeals to a committee on appeals for the Florida 30 High School Athletic Association or the Sunshine 31 Independent Athletic Association be held in the county 32 where the appellant's school is located; requiring 33 that an appeals process be expedited, if possible; 34 providing for the composition of a committee on 35 appeals for the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association; creating a board of directors of the 36 37 Sunshine Independent Athletic Association and 38 providing authority and duties of the board; providing 39 for the composition of the board membership; 40 authorizing private schools to join the Sunshine 41 Independent Athletic Association; providing for the 42 use of fines collected by either association; providing an effective date. 43 44 45 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 46 47 Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 1006.15, Florida 48 Statutes, is amended to read: 49 1006.15 Student standards for participation in 50 interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular student 51 activities; regulation.-52 The Florida High School Athletic Association (8) (a) 53 (FHSAA), in cooperation with each district school board, shall 54 facilitate a program in which a middle school or high school 55 student who attends a private school shall be eligible to 56 participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic sport at a Page 2 of 20

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57 public high school, a public middle school, or a 6-12 public 58 school that is zoned for the physical address at which the 59 student resides if:

1. The private school in which the student is enrolled is not a member of the FHSAA and does not offer an interscholastic or intrascholastic athletic program <u>or does not offer a specific</u> sport that is offered at the public school.

64 2. The private school student meets the guidelines for the
65 conduct of the program established by the FHSAA's board of
66 directors and the district school board. At a minimum, such
67 guidelines shall provide:

a. A deadline for each sport by which the private school
student's parents must register with the public school in
writing their intent for their child to participate at that
school in the sport.

b. Requirements for a private school student to participate, including, but not limited to, meeting the same standards of eligibility, acceptance, behavior, educational progress, and performance which apply to other students participating in interscholastic or intrascholastic sports at a public school or FHSAA member private school.

78 The parents of a private school student participating (b) 79 in a public school sport under this subsection are responsible 80 for transporting their child to and from the public school at 81 which the student participates. The private school the student attends, the public school at which the student participates in 82 a sport, the district school board, and the FHSAA are exempt 83 84 from civil liability arising from any injury that occurs to the Page 3 of 20

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85 student during such transportation.

(c) For each academic year, a private school student may only participate at the public school in which the student is first registered under sub-subparagraph (a)2.a. or makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a practice.

91 (d) The athletic director of each participating FHSAA 92 member public school shall maintain the student records 93 necessary for eligibility, compliance, and participation in the 94 program.

95 (e) Any non-FHSAA member private school that has a student 96 who wishes to participate in this program must make all student 97 records, including, but not limited to, academic, financial, 98 disciplinary, and attendance records, available upon request of 99 the FHSAA.

(f) A student must apply to participate in this programthrough the FHSAA program application process.

(g) Only students who are enrolled in non-FHSAA member private schools consisting of <u>250</u> <del>125</del> students or fewer are eligible to participate in the program in any given academic year.

106 Section 2. Section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, is amended 107 to read:

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1006.20 Athletics in <del>public</del> K-12 schools.-

(1) GOVERNING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The Florida High
 School Athletic Association is designated as the governing
 nonprofit organization of athletics in Florida public schools.
 If the Florida High School Athletic Association fails to meet

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113 the provisions of this section, the commissioner shall designate 114 a nonprofit organization to govern athletics with the approval 115 of the State Board of Education. The organization is not to be a 116 state agency as defined in s. 120.52. The Sunshine Independent 117 Athletic Association is designated as the governing nonprofit 118 organization of athletics in private schools in this state. The 119 organization shall be subject to the provisions of s. 1006.19. A 120 private school that wishes to engage in high school athletic 121 competition with a public high school may become a member of the organization. The bylaws of each the organization shall are to 122 123 be the rules by which high school athletic programs in its 124 member schools, and the students who participate in them, are 125 governed, unless otherwise specifically provided by statute. For 126 the purposes of this section, "high school" includes grades 6 127 through 12.

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(2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.-

129 Each The organization shall adopt bylaws that, unless (a) 130 specifically provided by statute, establish eligibility 131 requirements for all students who participate in high school 132 athletic competition in its member schools. The bylaws governing 133 residence and transfer shall allow the student to be eligible in 134 the school in which he or she first enrolls each school year, or 135 makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a practice before prior to enrolling in any member 136 137 school. The bylaws shall also allow a student who transfers from 138 a public school to a private school during the school year to 139 participate in any sport offered by the private school, with the approval of the public school district, if the student pays the 140

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141 <u>full tuition charged by the private school for all students.</u> The 142 student shall be eligible in that school so long as he or she 143 remains enrolled in that school. Subsequent eligibility shall be 144 determined and enforced through the organization's bylaws.

(b) <u>Each</u> The organization shall adopt bylaws that
specifically prohibit the recruiting of students for athletic
purposes. The bylaws shall prescribe penalties and an appeals
process for athletic recruiting violations.

149 (C) Each The organization shall adopt bylaws that require all students participating in interscholastic athletic 150 competition or who are candidates for an interscholastic 151 152 athletic team to satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each 153 year before prior to participating in interscholastic athletic 154 competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated with the student's candidacy 155 for an interscholastic athletic team. Such medical evaluation 156 157 shall can only be administered only by a practitioner licensed 158 under the provisions of chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, 159 or s. 464.012, and in good standing with the practitioner's 160 regulatory board. The bylaws shall establish requirements for 161 eliciting a student's medical history and performing the medical 162 evaluation required under this paragraph, which shall include a physical assessment of the student's physical capabilities to 163 164 participate in interscholastic athletic competition as contained in a uniform preparticipation physical evaluation and history 165 form. The evaluation form shall incorporate the recommendations 166 of the American Heart Association for participation 167 cardiovascular screening and shall provide a place for the 168 Page 6 of 20

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169 signature of the practitioner performing the evaluation with an 170 attestation that each examination procedure listed on the form 171 was performed by the practitioner or by someone under the direct 172 supervision of the practitioner. The form shall also contain a 173 place for the practitioner to indicate if a referral to another 174 practitioner was made in lieu of completion of a certain 175 examination procedure. The form shall provide a place for the 176 practitioner to whom the student was referred to complete the 177 remaining sections and attest to that portion of the 178 examination. The preparticipation physical evaluation form shall 179 advise students to complete a cardiovascular assessment and 180 shall include information concerning alternative cardiovascular evaluation and diagnostic tests. Results of such medical 181 182 evaluation must be provided to the school. No student shall be 183 eligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic 184 competition or engage in any practice, tryout, workout, or other 185 physical activity associated with the student's candidacy for an 186 interscholastic athletic team until the results of the medical 187 evaluation have been received and approved by the school.

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (c), a 188 (d) 189 student may participate in interscholastic athletic competition 190 or be a candidate for an interscholastic athletic team if the 191 parent of the student objects in writing to the student 192 undergoing a medical evaluation because such evaluation is 193 contrary to his or her religious tenets or practices. However, 194 in such case, there shall be no liability on the part of any person or entity in a position to otherwise rely on the results 195 196 of such medical evaluation for any damages resulting from the

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197 student's injury or death arising directly from the student's 198 participation in interscholastic athletics where an undisclosed 199 medical condition that would have been revealed in the medical 200 evaluation is a proximate cause of the injury or death.

201 (e) Each organization shall adopt bylaws that regulate 202 persons who conduct investigations. Such bylaws shall include 203 provisions that require investigators to:

204 <u>1. Undergo a background check before being hired and be</u> 205 <u>issued and carry a photo identification card that shows the</u> 206 association name and logo and the person's job title.

2. Adhere to the following guidelines:

208a. Interviews may be conducted only on Monday through209Friday between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

b. Searches of lockers, residences, or other private areas
 may be conducted only with the written approval of the person
 being investigated.
 c. Parents or legal guardians of any person being

214 interviewed may be present at the interview.

215 <u>d. Any person being interviewed may have legal counsel</u>
216 <u>present at an interview. However, the attorney may not</u>
217 <u>participate in the interview or object to a question, other than</u>
218 <u>advising the person not to answer a question.</u>

(f) Each organization shall adopt bylaws that allow a coach employed in a school that is a member of the organization to also coach or otherwise volunteer for a community, church, or other outside youth sports organization if such outside activity does not conflict with his or her obligations with the employer. (3) GOVERNING STRUCTURE OF EACH THE ORGANIZATION.-

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(a) <u>Each</u> The organization shall operate as a
representative democracy in which the sovereign authority is
within its member schools. Except as provided in this section,
<u>each</u> the organization shall govern its affairs through its
bylaws.

(b) Each member school, on its annual application for membership, shall name its official representative to the organization. This representative must be either the school principal or his or her designee. That designee must either be an assistant principal or athletic director housed within that same school.

(c) <u>Each</u> The organization's membership shall be divided along existing county lines into four contiguous and compact administrative regions, each containing an equal or nearly equal number of member schools to ensure equitable representation on the organization's board of directors, representative assembly, and committee on appeals.

242 (4) BOARD OF DIRECTORS; FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC
 243 ASSOCIATION.-

244 The executive authority of the organization shall be (a) 245 vested in its board of directors. Any entity that appoints 246 members to the board of directors shall examine the ethnic and 247 demographic composition of the board when selecting candidates 248 for appointment and shall, to the greatest extent possible, make appointments that reflect state demographic and population 249 trends. The board of directors shall be composed of 16 persons, 250 251 as follows:

252

 Four public member school representatives, one elected Page 9 of 20

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253 from among its public school representative members within each 254 of the four administrative regions.

255 2. Four nonpublic member school representatives, one 256 elected from among its nonpublic school representative members 257 within each of the four administrative regions.

3. Three representatives appointed by the commissioner, one appointed from the two northernmost administrative regions and one appointed from the two southernmost administrative regions. The third representative shall be appointed to balance the board for diversity or state population trends, or both.

4. Two district school superintendents, one elected from
the two northernmost administrative regions by the members in
those regions and one elected from the two southernmost
administrative regions by the members in those regions.

5. Two district school board members, one elected from the two northernmost administrative regions by the members in those regions and one elected from the two southernmost administrative regions by the members in those regions.

271 6. The commissioner or his or her designee from the272 department executive staff.

(b) A quorum of the board of directors shall consist ofnine members.

(c) The board of directors shall elect a president and a
vice president from among its members. These officers shall also
serve as officers of the organization.

(d) Members of the board of directors shall serve terms of
3 years and are eligible to succeed themselves only once. A
member of the board of directors, other than the commissioner or

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his or her designee, may serve a maximum of 6 consecutive years. The organization's bylaws shall establish a rotation of terms to ensure that a majority of the members' terms do not expire concurrently.

(e) The authority and duties of the board of directors,
acting as a body and in accordance with the organization's
bylaws, are as follows:

288 1. To act as the incorporated organization's board of 289 directors and to fulfill its obligations as required by the 290 organization's charter and articles of incorporation.

291 2. To establish such guidelines, regulations, policies,292 and procedures as are authorized by the bylaws.

3. To provide an organization commissioner, who shall have
the authority to waive the bylaws of the organization in order
to comply with statutory changes.

4. To levy annual dues and other fees and to set the
percentage of contest receipts to be collected by the
organization.

299

5. To approve the budget of the organization.

300 To organize and conduct statewide interscholastic 6. 301 competitions, which may or may not lead to state championships, 302 and to establish the terms and conditions for these 303 competitions. The Florida High School Athletic Association may 304 not deny or discourage interscholastic competition between its members and members of the Sunshine Independent Athletic 305 306 Association, nor may it take any retributory or discriminatory 307 action against any of its members who engage in interscholastic 308 competition with members of the Sunshine Independent Athletic

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309	Association. The two associations shall conduct annual state				
310	interscholastic championship competitions for each sport and				
311	competition level offered at their member schools.				
312	7. To act as an administrative board in the interpretation				
313	of, and final decision on, all questions and appeals arising				
314	from the directing of interscholastic athletics of member				
315	schools.				
316	(5) REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY; FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC				
317	ASSOCIATION				
318	(a) The legislative authority of the organization is				
319	vested in its representative assembly.				
320	(b) The representative assembly shall be composed of the				
321	following:				
322	1. An equal number of member school representatives from				
323	each of the four administrative regions.				
324	2. Four district school superintendents, one elected from				
325	each of the four administrative regions by the district school				
326	superintendents in their respective administrative regions.				
327	3. Four district school board members, one elected from				
328	each of the four administrative regions by the district school				
329	board members in their respective administrative regions.				
330	4. The commissioner or his or her designee from the				
331	department executive staff.				
332	(c) The organization's bylaws shall establish the number				
333	of member school representatives to serve in the representative				
334	assembly from each of the four administrative regions and shall				
335	establish the method for their selection.				
336	(d) No member of the board of directors other than the				
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337 commissioner or his or her designee can serve in the 338 representative assembly.

339 (e) The representative assembly shall elect a chairperson340 and a vice chairperson from among its members.

(f) Elected members of the representative assembly shall serve terms of 2 years and are eligible to succeed themselves for two additional terms. An elected member, other than the commissioner or his or her designee, may serve a maximum of 6 consecutive years in the representative assembly.

346 (g) A quorum of the representative assembly consists of347 one more than half of its members.

(h) The authority of the representative assembly is
limited to its sole duty, which is to consider, adopt, or reject
any proposed amendments to the organization's bylaws.

(i) The representative assembly shall meet as a body
annually. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast by members
present is required for passage of any proposal.

354 (6) PUBLIC LIAISON ADVISORY COMMITTEE; FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL
 355 ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.—

(a) The organization shall establish, sustain, fund, and
 provide staff support to a public liaison advisory committee
 composed of the following:

359 1. The commissioner or his or her designee.

360 2. A member public school principal.

361 3. A member private school principal.

362 4. A member school principal who is a member of a racial363 minority.

364 5. An active athletic director.

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An active coach, who is employed full time by a member

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6.

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366 school. 367 7. A student athlete. 368 8. A district school superintendent. 369 9. A district school board member. A member of the Florida House of Representatives. 370 10. 371 11. A member of the Florida Senate. 372 12. A parent of a high school student. 373 A member of a home education association. 13. 374 14. A representative of the business community. 375 15. A representative of the news media. 376 No member of the board of directors, committee on (b) 377 appeals, or representative assembly is eligible to serve on the 378 public liaison advisory committee. 379 The public liaison advisory committee shall elect a (C) chairperson and vice chairperson from among its members. 380 381 The authority and duties of the public liaison (d) 382 advisory committee are as follows: 383 1. To act as a conduit through which the general public 384 may have input into the decisionmaking process of the 385 organization and to assist the organization in the development 386 of procedures regarding the receipt of public input and

387 disposition of complaints related to high school athletic and 388 competition programs.

389 2. To conduct public hearings annually in each of the four 390 administrative regions during which interested parties may 391 address issues regarding the effectiveness of the rules, 392 operation, and management of the organization.

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393 3. To conduct an annual evaluation of the organization as 394 a whole and present a report of its findings, conclusion, and 395 recommendations to the board of directors, to the commissioner, 396 and to the respective education committees of the Florida Senate 397 and the Florida House of Representatives. The recommendations 398 must delineate policies and procedures that will improve the 399 implementation and oversight of high school athletic programs by 400 the organization.

401 (e) The public liaison advisory committee shall meet four
402 times annually. Additional meetings may be called by the
403 committee chairperson, the organization president, or the
404 organization commissioner.

405

(7) APPEALS.-

(a) <u>Each</u> The organization shall establish a procedure of
due process which ensures each student the opportunity to appeal
an unfavorable ruling with regard to his or her eligibility to
compete. The initial appeal shall be made to a committee on
appeals within the administrative region in which the student
lives. <u>Each</u> The organization's bylaws shall establish the
number, size, and composition of the committee on appeals.

(b) No member of the board of directors is eligible toserve on the committee on appeals.

(c) Members of the committee on appeals shall serve terms of 3 years and are eligible to succeed themselves only once. A member of the committee on appeals may serve a maximum of 6 consecutive years. <u>Each</u> The organization's bylaws shall establish a rotation of terms to ensure that a majority of the members' terms do not expire concurrently.

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421 The authority and duties of the committee on appeals (d) 422 shall be to consider requests by member schools seeking 423 exceptions to bylaws and regulations, to hear undue hardship 424 eligibility cases filed by member schools on behalf of student 425 athletes, and to hear appeals filed by member schools. 426 A student athlete or member school that receives an (e) 427 unfavorable ruling from a committee on appeals shall be entitled 428 to appeal that decision to the board of directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting or called meeting. The board of 429 430 directors shall have the authority to uphold, reverse, or amend 431 the decision of the committee on appeals. In all such cases, the 432 decision of the board of directors shall be final. 433 (f) Hearings on appeals shall be held in the county where 434 the appellant's school is located. 435 The organizations shall expedite the appeals process (g) 436 so that disposition of the appeal can be made prior to the end of the applicable sports season, if possible. 437 438 Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the committee on (h) 439 appeals of the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association shall 440 be composed of 10 persons as follows: 441 1. Three members appointed by the Governor. 442 2. Three members appointed by the President of the Senate. 443 Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of 3. 444 Representatives. 445 4. The commissioner or his or her designee, who shall 446 serve as a nonvoting member. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS.-Each member school 447 (8) 448 representative, the board of directors acting as a whole or as Page 16 of 20

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449 members acting individually, any advisory committee acting as a 450 whole to be established by the organization, and the 451 organization's commissioner are empowered to propose amendments 452 to the bylaws. Any other individual may propose an amendment by 453 securing the sponsorship of any of the aforementioned 454 individuals or bodies. All proposed amendments must be submitted 455 directly to the representative assembly for its consideration. 456 The representative assembly, while empowered to adopt, reject, or revise proposed amendments, may not, in and of itself, as a 457 458 body be allowed to propose any amendment for its own consideration. 459 460 RULES ADOPTION.-The bylaws of each the organization (9) 461 shall require member schools to adopt rules for sports, which 462 have been established by a nationally recognized sanctioning 463 body, unless waived by at least a two-thirds vote of the board 464 of directors. 465 (10) BOARD OF DIRECTORS; SUNSHINE INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC 466 ASSOCIATION.-467 The executive authority of the organization shall be (a) 468 vested in its board of directors. Any entity that appoints 469 members to the board of directors shall examine the ethnic and demographic composition of the board when selecting candidates 470 for appointment and shall, to the extent possible, make 471 472 appointments that reflect state demographic and population trends. The board of directors shall be composed of 16 persons, 473 474 as follows: 475 1. Four public school representatives, one elected from 476 among its public school representative members within each of

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477 the four administrative regions for public schools. 478 2. Four nonpublic member school representatives, one 479 elected from among its nonpublic school representative members 480 within each of the four administrative regions for public 481 schools. 482 3. Three representatives appointed by the commissioner, 483 one appointed from the two northernmost administrative regions 484 and one appointed from the two southernmost administrative 485 regions. The third representative shall be appointed to balance 486 the board for diversity or state population trends, or both. 4. Two school headmasters, one elected from the two 487 488 northernmost administrative regions by the nonpublic school 489 members in those regions and one elected from the two 490 southernmost administrative regions by the nonpublic school 491 members in those regions. Two nonpublic school governing board members, one 492 5. 493 elected from the two northernmost administrative regions by the 494 nonpublic school members in those regions and one elected from 495 the two southernmost administrative regions by the nonpublic 496 school members in those regions. 497 The commissioner, or his or her designee from the 6. 498 department executive staff. 499 (b) A quorum of the board of directors shall consist of 500 nine members. 501 The board of directors shall elect a president and a (C) 502 vice president from among its members. These officers shall also 503 serve as officers of the organization. 504 (d) Members of the board of directors shall serve terms of Page 18 of 20

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505 3 years and are eligible to succeed themselves only once. The organization's bylaws shall establish a rotation of terms to 506 507 ensure that a majority of the members' terms do not expire 508 concurrently. 509 The authority and duties of the board of directors, (e) 510 acting as a body and in accordance with the organization's 511 bylaws, are as follows: 512 1. To act as the incorporated organization's board of 513 directors and to fulfill its obligations as required by the 514 organization's charter and articles of incorporation. 2. To establish such guidelines, regulations, policies, 515 516 and procedures as are authorized by the bylaws. 517 3. To provide an organization commissioner, who shall have 518 the authority to waive the bylaws of the organization in order 519 to comply with statutory changes. 520 4. To levy annual dues and other fees and to set the percentage of contest receipts to be collected by the 521 522 organization. 523 5. To approve the budget of the organization. 524 6. To organize and conduct statewide interscholastic 525 competitions. 526 7. To act as an administrative board in the interpretation 527 of, and final decision on, all questions and appeals arising from the directing of interscholastic athletics of member 528 529 schools. 530 (11) MEMBERSHIP.-Notwithstanding any provision of law to 531 the contrary, any nonpublic high school in this state, including 532 charter schools and virtual schools, may become a member of the Page 19 of 20

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533	Sunshine Independent Athletic Association and participate in the			
534	activities of that organization. However, membership in the			
535	association is not mandatory for any school.			
536	(12) FINES.—Any fines collected by either organization			
537	shall be deposited into the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund.			
538	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.			