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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to high school athletics; amending s. 1006.15, F.S.; expanding the eligibility of certain students in private schools to participate in sports programs in public schools; amending s. 1006.20, F.S.; designating the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association as the governing nonprofit organization of athletics in private schools in this state; revising provisions relating to the bylaws of the Florida High School Athletic Association and providing for organization, authority, and duties of the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association; requiring the bylaws of both associations to allow certain students who transfer to a private school to participate in sports offered by the school; requiring such bylaws to regulate investigators used by the associations and providing restrictions on investigations that are conducted; requiring such bylaws to allow coaches to coach in outside youth sports organizations; prohibiting the Florida High School Athletic Association from denying or discouraging interscholastic competition between public and private schools; providing for annual interscholastic competition championships between public and nonpublic high schools for each sport and competition level offered in public and private high schools in this state; providing procedures for appeals to the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association; requiring that appeals to a committee on appeals for the Florida

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High School Athletic Association or the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association be held in the county where the appellant's school is located; requiring that an appeals process be expedited, if possible; providing for the composition of a committee on appeals for the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association; creating a board of directors of the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association and providing authority and duties of the board; providing for the composition of the board membership; authorizing private schools to join the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association; providing for the use of fines collected by either association; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 1006.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1006.15 Student standards for participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular student activities; regulation.-
(8) (a) The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), in cooperation with each district school board, shall facilitate a program in which a middle school or high school student who attends a private school shall be eligible to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic sport at a public high school, a public middle school, or a 6-12 public school that is zoned for the physical address at which the

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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 or does not offer a specific sport that is offered at the public school.
2. The private school student meets the guidelines for the conduct of the program established by the FHSAA's board of directors and the district school board. At a minimum, such 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.
(b) The parents of a private school student participating in a public school sport under this subsection are responsible for transporting their child to and from the public school at which the student participates. The private school the student attends, the public school at which the student participates in a sport, the district school board, and the FHSAA are exempt from civil liability arising from any injury that occurs to the 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

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first registered under sub-subparagraph (a) $2 . a$. or makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a practice.
(d) The athletic director of each participating FHSAA member public school shall maintain the student records necessary for eligibility, compliance, and participation in the program.
(e) Any non-FHSAA member private school that has a student who wishes to participate in this program must make all student records, including, but not limited to, academic, financial, disciplinary, and attendance records, available upon request of the FHSAA.
(f) A student must apply to participate in this program through the FHSAA program application process.
(g) Only students who are enrolled in non-FHSAA member private schools consisting of 250125 students or fewer are eligible to participate in the program in any given academic year.

Section 2. Section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1006.20 Athletics in public $K-12$ 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 the provisions of this section, the commissioner shall designate a nonprofit organization to govern athletics with the approval of the State Board of Education. The organization is not to be a state agency as defined in s. 120.52. The Sunshine Independent

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Athletic Association is designated as the governing nonprofit organization of athletics in private schools in this state. The organization shall be subject to the provisions of s. 1006.19. A private school that wishes to engage in high school athletic eompetition with a public high school may become a member of the organization. The bylaws of each the organization shall are to be the rules by which high school athletic programs in its member schools, and the students who participate in them, are governed, unless otherwise specifically provided by statute. For the purposes of this section, "high school" includes grades 6 through 12.
(2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.-
(a) Each the organization shall adopt bylaws that, unless specifically provided by statute, establish eligibility requirements for all students who participate in high school athletic competition in its member schools. The bylaws governing residence and transfer shall allow the student to be eligible in the school in which he or she first enrolls each school year, or makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a practice before prior to enrolling in any member school. The bylaws shall also allow a student who transfers from a public school to a private school during the school year to participate in any sport offered by the private school, with the approval of the public school district, if the student pays the full tuition charged by the private school for all students. The student shall be eligible in that school so long as he or she remains enrolled in that school. Subsequent eligibility shall be determined and enforced through the organization's bylaws.
(b) Each The organization shall adopt bylaws that

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specifically prohibit the recruiting of students for athletic purposes. The bylaws shall prescribe penalties and an appeals process for athletic recruiting violations.
(c) Each the organization shall adopt bylaws that require all students participating in interscholastic athletic competition or who are candidates for an interscholastic athletic team to satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each year before prior to participating in interscholastic athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic athletic team. Such medical evaluation shall ean only be administered only by a practitioner licensed under the provisions of chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, or s. 464.012, and in good standing with the practitioner's regulatory board. The bylaws shall establish requirements for eliciting a student's medical history and performing the medical evaluation required under this paragraph, which shall include a physical assessment of the student's physical capabilities to participate in interscholastic athletic competition as contained in a uniform preparticipation physical evaluation and history form. The evaluation form shall incorporate the recommendations of the American Heart Association for participation cardiovascular screening and shall provide a place for the signature of the practitioner performing the evaluation with an attestation that each examination procedure listed on the form was performed by the practitioner or by someone under the direct supervision of the practitioner. The form shall also contain a place for the practitioner to indicate if a referral to another practitioner was made in lieu of completion of a certain

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examination procedure. The form shall provide a place for the practitioner to whom the student was referred to complete the remaining sections and attest to that portion of the examination. The preparticipation physical evaluation form shall advise students to complete a cardiovascular assessment and shall include information concerning alternative cardiovascular evaluation and diagnostic tests. Results of such medical evaluation must be provided to the school. No student shall be eligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic competition or engage in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic athletic team until the results of the medical evaluation have been received and approved by the school.
(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (c), a student may participate in interscholastic athletic competition or be a candidate for an interscholastic athletic team if the parent of the student objects in writing to the student undergoing a medical evaluation because such evaluation is contrary to his or her religious tenets or practices. However, 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 of such medical evaluation for any damages resulting from the student's injury or death arising directly from the student's participation in interscholastic athletics where an undisclosed medical condition that would have been revealed in the medical evaluation is a proximate cause of the injury or death.
(e) Each organization shall adopt bylaws that regulate persons who conduct investigations. Such bylaws shall include provisions that require investigators to:

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1. Undergo a background check before being hired and be issued and carry a photo identification card that shows the association name and logo and the person's job title.
2. Adhere to the following guidelines:
a. Interviews may be conducted only on Monday through Friday 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 interviewed may be present at the interview.
d. Any person being interviewed may have legal counsel present at an interview. However, the attorney may not participate in the interview or object to a question, other than advising the person not to answer a question.
(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 THF ORGANIZATION.-
(a) Each the organization shall operate as a representative democracy in which the sovereign authority is within its member schools. Except as provided in this section, each 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

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an assistant principal or athletic director housed within that same school.
(c) Each 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.
(4) BOARD OF DIRECTORS; FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.-
(a) The executive authority of the organization shall be vested in its board of directors. Any entity that appoints members to the board of directors shall examine the ethnic and demographic composition of the board when selecting candidates for appointment and shall, to the greatest extent possible, make appointments that reflect state demographic and population trends. The board of directors shall be composed of 16 persons, as follows:

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

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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.
6. The commissioner or his or her designee from the department executive staff.
(b) A quorum of the board of directors shall consist of nine 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 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:

1. To act as the incorporated organization's board of directors and to fulfill its obligations as required by the organization's charter and articles of incorporation.
2. To establish such guidelines, regulations, policies, and

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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.
5. To approve the budget of the organization.
6. To organize and conduct statewide interscholastic competitions, which may or may not lead to state championships, and to establish the terms and conditions for these competitions. The Florida High School Athletic Association may not deny or discourage interscholastic competition between its members and members of the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association, nor may it take any retributory or discriminatory action against any of its members who engage in interscholastic competition with members of the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association. The two associations shall conduct annual state interscholastic championship competitions for each sport and competition level offered at their member schools.
7. To act as an administrative board in the interpretation of, and final decision on, all questions and appeals arising from the directing of interscholastic athletics of member schools.
(5) REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY; FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.-
(a) The legislative authority of the organization is vested in its representative assembly.
(b) The representative assembly shall be composed of the

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following:

1. An equal number of member school representatives from each of the four administrative regions.
2. Four district school superintendents, one elected from each of the four administrative regions by the district school superintendents in their respective administrative regions.
3. Four district school board members, one elected from each of the four administrative regions by the district school board members in their respective administrative regions.
4. The commissioner or his or her designee from the department executive staff.
(c) The organization's bylaws shall establish the number of member school representatives to serve in the representative assembly from each of the four administrative regions and shall establish the method for their selection.
(d) No member of the board of directors other than the commissioner or his or her designee can serve in the representative assembly.
(e) The representative assembly shall elect a chairperson 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.
(g) A quorum of the representative assembly consists of 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

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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.
(6) PUBLIC LIAISON ADVISORY COMMITTEE; FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.-
(a) The organization shall establish, sustain, fund, and provide staff support to a public liaison advisory committee composed of the following:

1. The commissioner or his or her designee.
2. A member public school principal.
3. A member private school principal.
4. A member school principal who is a member of a racial minority.
5. An active athletic director.
6. An active coach, who is employed full time by a member school.
7. A student athlete.
8. A district school superintendent.
9. A district school board member.
10. A member of the Florida House of Representatives.
11. A member of the Florida Senate.
12. A parent of a high school student.
13. A member of a home education association.
14. A representative of the business community.
15. A representative of the news media.
(b) No member of the board of directors, committee on appeals, or representative assembly is eligible to serve on the public liaison advisory committee.

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(c) The public liaison advisory committee shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from among its members.
(d) The authority and duties of the public liaison advisory committee are as follows:

1. To act as a conduit through which the general public may have input into the decisionmaking process of the organization and to assist the organization in the development of procedures regarding the receipt of public input and disposition of complaints related to high school athletic and competition programs.
2. To conduct public hearings annually in each of the four administrative regions during which interested parties may address issues regarding the effectiveness of the rules, operation, and management of the organization.
3. To conduct an annual evaluation of the organization as a whole and present a report of its findings, conclusion, and recommendations to the board of directors, to the commissioner, and to the respective education committees of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives. The recommendations must delineate policies and procedures that will improve the implementation and oversight of high school athletic programs by the organization.
(e) The public liaison advisory committee shall meet four times annually. Additional meetings may be called by the committee chairperson, the organization president, or the organization commissioner.
(7) APPEALS.-
(a) Each the organization shall establish a procedure of due process which ensures each student the opportunity to appeal

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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. Each 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 to serve 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. Each The organization's bylaws shall establish a rotation of terms to ensure that a majority of the members' terms do not expire concurrently.
(d) The authority and duties of the committee on appeals shall be to consider requests by member schools seeking exceptions to bylaws and regulations, to hear undue hardship eligibility cases filed by member schools on behalf of student athletes, and to hear appeals filed by member schools.
(e) A student athlete or member school that receives an unfavorable ruling from a committee on appeals shall be entitled to appeal that decision to the board of directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting or called meeting. The board of directors shall have the authority to uphold, reverse, or amend the decision of the committee on appeals. In all such cases, the decision of the board of directors shall be final.
(f) Hearings on appeals shall be held in the county where the appellant's school is located.
(g) The organizations shall expedite the appeals process so that disposition of the appeal can be made prior to the end of

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the applicable sports season, if possible.
(h) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the committee on appeals of the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association shall be composed of 10 persons as follows:

1. Three members appointed by the Governor.
2. Three members appointed by the President of the Senate.
3. Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
4. The commissioner or his or her designee, who shall serve as a nonvoting member.
(8) AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS.-Each member school representative, the board of directors acting as a whole or as members acting individually, any advisory committee acting as a whole to be established by the organization, and the organization's commissioner are empowered to propose amendments to the bylaws. Any other individual may propose an amendment by securing the sponsorship of any of the aforementioned individuals or bodies. All proposed amendments must be submitted directly to the representative assembly for its consideration. The representative assembly, while empowered to adopt, reject, or revise proposed amendments, may not, in and of itself, as a body be allowed to propose any amendment for its own consideration.
(9) RULES ADOPTION.-The bylaws of each the organization shall require member schools to adopt rules for sports, which have been established by a nationally recognized sanctioning body, unless waived by at least a two-thirds vote of the board of directors.
(10) BOARD OF DIRECTORS; SUNSHINE INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.-

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

1. Four representatives, not affiliated with any school, school system, or school board, one elected from among its public school representative members within each of the four administrative regions for public schools.
2. Four nonpublic member school representatives, one elected from among its nonpublic school representative members within each of the four administrative regions for public schools.
3. Three representatives appointed by the commissioner, one appointed from the two northernmost administrative regions and one appointed from the two southernmost administrative regions. If necessary and to the extent possible, the third representative shall be appointed to balance the board for diversity or state population trends, or both, and may be appointed from any of the four administrative regions for public schools.
4. Two school headmasters, one elected from the two northernmost administrative regions by the nonpublic school members in those regions and one elected from the two southernmost administrative regions by the nonpublic school members in those regions.

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5. Two nonpublic school governing board members, one elected from the two northernmost administrative regions by the nonpublic school members in those regions and one elected from the two southernmost administrative regions by the nonpublic school members in those regions.
6. The commissioner, or his or her designee from the department executive staff.
(b) A quorum of the board of directors shall consist of nine 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) Eight members of the board of directors shall serve terms of 3 years and are eligible to succeed themselves for two additional consecutive terms. Eight members shall serve terms of 4 years and, except for the commissioner, who may serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms, are eligible to succeed themselves for only one additional consecutive term. 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:

1. To act as the incorporated organization's board of directors and to fulfill its obligations as required by the organization's charter and articles of incorporation.
2. To establish such guidelines, regulations, policies, and procedures as are authorized by the bylaws.

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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.
5. To approve the budget of the organization.
6. To organize and conduct statewide interscholastic competitions.
7. To act as an administrative board in the interpretation of, and final decision on, all questions and appeals arising from the directing of interscholastic athletics of member schools.
(11) MEMBERSHIP.-Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any nonpublic high school in this state, including charter schools and virtual schools, may become a member of the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association and participate in the activities of that organization. However, membership in the association is not mandatory for any school.
(12) FINES.-Any fines collected by either organization shall be deposited into the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

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