

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2012 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Education Pre-K - 12

CS/CS/CS/HB 1403 — High School Athletics

by Education Committee; Rules and Calendar Committee; K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee; and Rep. Stargel (CS/SB 1704 by Education Pre-K – 12 Committee and Senator Wise)

Under this bill, any high school, including a traditional public school, a charter school, a private school, a virtual school, and a home education cooperative, is eligible for membership in the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). Membership, however, is voluntary.

The bill clarifies eligibility for transfer students, so that they can continue to play as long as their transfer is approved by the district school board.

The FHSAA will be required to adopt bylaws for the following:

- Required background screening for investigators and reasonable conditions under which investigations can take place;
- Sanctions for coaches who have committed major violations; and
- Procedures and standards for student eligibility determination.

Due process protections will be preserved for student eligibility appeals when new evidence is available.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2012.

Vote: Senate 21-18; House 78-34