

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1333 Extracurricular Student Activities
SPONSOR(S): Patterson
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1514 (S)

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) GENERAL EDUCATION (Sub)	5 Y, 0 N	Ashworth	Bohannon
2) EDUCATION K-20		Ashworth	Bohannon
3)			
4)			
5)			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 1333 replaces the term “interscholastic extracurricular” activities with “extracurricular” activities. Current law defines “extracurricular” as any school-authorized or education-related activity occurring during or outside the regular instructional school day. Extracurricular activities could include such activities as academic clubs, such as the French Club, Spanish Club, or Science Club, as well as after-school tutoring programs, school dances, including the Prom. “Interscholastic” is not defined in law or rule; however, the dictionary definition defines “interscholastic” as “existing or carried on between schools, such as ‘interscholastic’ athletics. The above definitions appear to mean that extracurricular activities include all interscholastic activities; however, interscholastic activities do not include all extracurricular activities. Changing the term from “interscholastic extracurricular” to “extracurricular” in statute has the effect of:

- Requiring traditional public school students in *all extracurricular* activities to comply with the GPA requirements that have traditionally applied to students in *interscholastic extracurricular* activities (namely, sports)
- Allows home education and charter school students access to all *extracurricular* activities rather than just *interscholastic extracurricular* activities.

Additionally, the bill requires traditional public school students who participate in extracurricular activities to earn a passing grade in each “core course” required for graduation that the student takes. The term “core course” is defined in the bill to include courses taken in the areas of math, science, social studies, or language arts. The requirement would be applied at the end of each grading period. However, an exception is made for a student who is participating in an extracurricular activity for which they are receiving physical education course credit as a graduation requirement. This appears to have the effect of allowing some students to continue participating in extracurricular activities even though they are not meeting the new “passing grade” requirement while other students with the same grades in the core courses will not be allowed to continue participating because they are not enrolled in the extracurricular activity to receive credit for a physical education graduation requirement.

The “passing grade” requirement is not necessarily applicable to home school students as their method of demonstrating educational progress may be different. Charter school students must already pass each class for which he or she is enrolled to participate in public school extracurricular activities.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.

STORAGE NAME: h1333b.edk.doc
DATE: March 29, 2004

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1. Reduce government? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a “no” above, please explain:

The bill decreases individual freedom of traditional public school students by increasing the restrictions placed on students for the eligibility to participate in all extracurricular activities, which could include academic clubs and after-school tutoring. Currently, the eligibility requirements only apply to interscholastic extracurricular activities, not all extracurricular activities. However, the bill expands individual freedom for home education and charter school students by affording them the opportunity to participate in all extracurricular activities rather than just interscholastic extracurricular activities.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Section 1006.15, F.S., defines “extracurricular” as any school-authorized or education-related activity occurring during or outside the regular instructional school day. “Interscholastic” is not defined in law or rule. *Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition* defines “interscholastic” as “existing or carried on between schools, such as ‘interscholastic’ athletics.” The above definitions appear to mean that extracurricular activities include all interscholastic activities; however, interscholastic activities would not include all extracurricular activities.

Under the current law, to be able to participate *in interscholastic extracurricular activities*, a student must:

- Maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the previous semester or a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent in the courses required for high school graduation.
- If the student’s cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0 in the courses required for graduation, sign and fulfill the requirements of an academic performance contract¹ between the student, the district school board, the appropriate governing association² and the student’s parents.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required for high school graduation during his or her junior or senior year.

Home Education Students and Charter School Students

Home education students and charter school students are eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities at the public school. Home education students must demonstrate educational progress by a method of evaluation mutually agreed upon by the principal and parent³. Charter school

¹ At a minimum, the contract must require that the student attend summer school, or its graded equivalent, between grades 9 and 10 or grades 10 and 11, as necessary.

² Such as the Florida High School Athletic Association.

³ Section 1006.15(3)(c)2., Florida Statutes, includes several methods which may be used for evaluation of the home school student. One method requires any student who is exempt from attending a full school day to maintain the 2.0 and pass each class for which he or she is enrolled. A home school student may be subject to these requirements if that is the method selected by the principal and parent.

students must meet the education requirements as set by the governing board and demonstrate educational progress through maintenance of the required GPA and pass each class for which the student is enrolled. Both home education and charter school students must meet the same residency requirements, standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance as required of other participating students in the school. Also, home education and charter school students must register with the school at a certain time and participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.

Currently, approximately 250,000 students participate in interscholastic athletics.⁴ The number of students participating in extracurricular activities is unknown.

Provisions of HB 1333

HB 1333 replaces the term “interscholastic extracurricular” activities with “extracurricular” activities. Changing the term from “interscholastic extracurricular” to “extracurricular” in statute has the effect of:

- Requiring traditional public school students in all *extracurricular* activities to comply with the GPA requirements that have traditionally applied to students in *interscholastic extracurricular* activities (namely, sports). Extracurricular activities from which students are restricted could include academic clubs, tutoring activities, and school social functions.
- Allows home education and charter school students access to all *extracurricular* activities rather than just *interscholastic extracurricular* activities.

Additionally, the bill requires traditional public school students who participate in extracurricular activities to earn a passing grade in each “core course” required for graduation that the student takes. The term “core course” is defined in the bill to include courses taken in the areas of math, science, social studies, or language arts. The requirement would be applied at the end of each grading period. However, an exception is made for a student who is participating in an extracurricular activity for which they are receiving physical education course credit as a graduation requirement. This appears to have the effect of allowing some students to continue participating in extracurricular activities even though they are not meeting the new “passing grade” requirement while other students with the same grades in the core courses will not be allowed to continue participating because they are not enrolled in the extracurricular activity to receive credit for a physical education graduation requirement.

The “passing grade” requirement is not necessarily applicable to home school students as their method of demonstrating educational progress may be different. Charter school students must already pass each class for which he or she is enrolled in order to participate in extracurricular activities at the public school.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1006.15, F.S.; revising the student standards for participation in *interscholastic* activities to the student standards for participation in *extracurricular* activities; revising definition of extracurricular; requiring that a student must receive a passing grade in each core course required for graduation in order to participate in extracurricular activities; defining “core course” as those in math, science, social studies, or language arts; applying requirement for passing grade in core courses at the end of each grading period; providing an exception to prohibition from participation in extracurricular activity if student is receiving required credit in physical education.

Section 2. Amends s. 1002.33, F.S.; revising the authorization for the participation of charter school students in *interscholastic* activities to the participation in *extracurricular* activities.

⁴ Florida High School Athletic Association.

Section 3. Amends s. 1002.41, F.S., revising the authorization for the participation of home education students to participate in *interscholastic* activities to the participation in *extracurricular* activities.

Section 4. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2004.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 29, 2004, the Subcommittee on General Education voted to recommend HB 1333 to the Committee on Education K-20 with one amendment. The amendment removed the new language in the bill that required a student to receive a passing grade in core courses in order to meet eligibility requirements for participating in extracurricular activities and the language allowing an exception to the GPA requirement for students participating in an extracurricular activities for physical education credit for high school graduation.