1

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2 An act relating to high school athletics; amending s. 3 1002.20, F.S.; conforming provisions; amending s. 4 1006.20, F.S.; authorizing high schools, including 5 charter schools, virtual schools, and home education 6 cooperatives, to become members of the FHSAA; 7 prohibiting the FHSAA from taking retributory or 8 discriminatory action against any of its member 9 schools under certain circumstances; prohibiting the 10 FHSAA from withholding approval of any other athletic 11 organization that governs athletic competition in the state; requiring the FHSAA to adopt bylaws to allow a 12 student who transfers schools to be eligible to 13 14 participate in athletics if certain conditions are 15 met; authorizing certain penalties for a recruiting 16 violation; requiring the FHSAA to adopt bylaws to regulate investigators and sanction coaches who commit 17 major violations; specifying sanctions and procedures; 18 19 requiring the FHSAA to adopt bylaws establishing the process and standards by which determinations of 20 21 eligibility are made; authorizing the FHSAA to adopt 22 bylaws providing certain procedural safeguards; 23 prohibiting FHSAA bylaws from prospectively limiting 24 the competition of certain student athletes and from 25 unfairly punishing student athletes for violations 26 perpetrated by a teammate, coach, or administrator; 27 providing requirements for the forfeiture of contests 28 under certain conditions; requiring an expedited

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29	appeals process on determinations of ineligibility;
30	authorizing a school or student athlete filing an
31	appeal to present information and evidence; providing
32	requirements for de novo decisions on appeal; deleting
33	provisions relating to rule adoption; amending s.
34	1012.468, F.S.; providing background screening
35	exceptions for certain investigators for the FHSAA;
36	providing an effective date.
37	
38	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
39	
40	Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (17) of section
41	1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
42	1002.20 K-12 student and parent rightsParents of public
43	school students must receive accurate and timely information
44	regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
45	of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
46	students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
47	rights including, but not limited to, the following:
48	(17) ATHLETICS; PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
49	(a) Eligibility.—Eligibility requirements for all students
50	participating in high school athletic competition must allow a
51	student to be eligible in the school in which he or she first
52	enrolls each school year, the school in which the student $rac{\mathbf{r}}{\mathbf{r}}$
53	makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic team by
54	engaging in practice before enrolling, or the school to which
55	the student has transferred with approval of the district school
56	board, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.20(2)(a).
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57 Section 2. Section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, is amended 58 to read:

59

1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.-

60 GOVERNING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.-The Florida High (1)61 School Athletic Association (FHSAA) is designated as the 62 governing nonprofit organization of athletics in Florida public 63 schools. If the FHSAA Florida High School Athletic Association 64 fails to meet the provisions of this section, the commissioner 65 shall designate a nonprofit organization to govern athletics with the approval of the State Board of Education. The FHSAA 66 67 organization is not to be a state agency as defined in s. 120.52. The FHSAA organization shall be subject to the 68 69 provisions of s. 1006.19. A private school that wishes to engage 70 in high school athletic competition with a public high school 71 may become a member of the FHSAA organization. Any high school 72 in the state, including charter schools, virtual schools, and 73 home education cooperatives, may become a member of the FHSAA 74 and participate in the activities of the FHSAA. However, 75 membership in the FHSAA is not mandatory for any school. The 76 FHSAA may not deny or discourage interscholastic competition 77 between its member schools and non-FHSAA member Florida schools, 78 including members of another athletic governing organization, 79 and may not take any retributory or discriminatory action against any of its member schools that participate in 80 81 interscholastic competition with non-FHSAA member Florida 82 schools. The FHSAA may not unreasonably withhold its approval of 83 an application to become an affiliate member of the National 84 Federation of State High School Associations submitted by any

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85 <u>other organization that governs interscholastic athletic</u> 86 <u>competition in this state.</u> The bylaws of the <u>FHSAA</u> <del>organization</del> 87 are to be the rules by which high school athletic programs in 88 its member schools, and the students who participate in them, 89 are governed, unless otherwise specifically provided by statute. 90 For the purposes of this section, "high school" includes grades 91 6 through 12.

92

(2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.-

93 (a) The FHSAA organization shall adopt bylaws that, unless specifically provided by statute, establish eligibility 94 95 requirements for all students who participate in high school 96 athletic competition in its member schools. The bylaws governing residence and transfer shall allow the student to be eliqible in 97 98 the school in which he or she first enrolls each school year  $\tau$  or 99 the school in which the student makes himself or herself a 100 candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a practice prior to enrolling in the any member school. The bylaws shall also 101 102 allow the student to be eligible in the school to which the 103 student has transferred during the school year if the transfer 104 is made by a deadline established by the FHSAA, which may not be 105 prior to the date authorized for the beginning of practice for 106 the sport. These transfers shall be allowed pursuant to the 107 district school board policies in the case of transfer to a 108 public school or pursuant to the private school policies in the case of transfer to a private school. The student shall be 109 110 eligible in that school so long as he or she remains enrolled in 111 that school. Subsequent eligibility shall be determined and enforced through the FHSAA's organization's bylaws. Requirements 112 Page 4 of 19

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113 governing eligibility and transfer between member schools shall 114 be applied similarly to public school students and private 115 school students.

116 The FHSAA organization shall adopt bylaws that (b) 117 specifically prohibit the recruiting of students for athletic 118 purposes. The bylaws shall prescribe penalties and an appeals 119 process for athletic recruiting violations. If it is determined that a school has recruited a student in violation of FHSAA 120 121 bylaws, the FHSAA may require the school to participate in a higher classification for the sport in which the recruited 122 123 student competes for a minimum of one classification cycle, in 124 addition to any other appropriate fine and sanction imposed on 125 the school, its coaches, or adult representatives who violate 126 recruiting rules. A student may not be declared ineligible based on violation of recruiting rules unless the student or parent 127 128 has falsified any enrollment or eligibility document or accepted 129 any benefit or any promise of benefit if such benefit is not generally available to the school's students or family members 130 131 or is based in any way on athletic interest, potential, or 132 performance.

133 The FHSAA organization shall adopt bylaws that require (C) 134 all students participating in interscholastic athletic 135 competition or who are candidates for an interscholastic 136 athletic team to satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each year prior to participating in interscholastic athletic 137 138 competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or 139 other physical activity associated with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic athletic team. Such medical evaluation 140

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may can only be administered only by a practitioner licensed 141 under the provisions of chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, 142 143 or s. 464.012, and in good standing with the practitioner's 144 regulatory board. The bylaws shall establish requirements for 145 eliciting a student's medical history and performing the medical 146 evaluation required under this paragraph, which shall include a 147 physical assessment of the student's physical capabilities to 148 participate in interscholastic athletic competition as contained 149 in a uniform preparticipation physical evaluation and history 150 form. The evaluation form shall incorporate the recommendations 151 of the American Heart Association for participation 152 cardiovascular screening and shall provide a place for the signature of the practitioner performing the evaluation with an 153 154 attestation that each examination procedure listed on the form 155 was performed by the practitioner or by someone under the direct 156 supervision of the practitioner. The form shall also contain a 157 place for the practitioner to indicate if a referral to another 158 practitioner was made in lieu of completion of a certain 159 examination procedure. The form shall provide a place for the 160 practitioner to whom the student was referred to complete the 161 remaining sections and attest to that portion of the 162 examination. The preparticipation physical evaluation form shall 163 advise students to complete a cardiovascular assessment and 164 shall include information concerning alternative cardiovascular evaluation and diagnostic tests. Results of such medical 165 166 evaluation must be provided to the school. No student shall be 167 eligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic competition or engage in any practice, tryout, workout, or other 168 Page 6 of 19

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169 physical activity associated with the student's candidacy for an 170 interscholastic athletic team until the results of the medical 171 evaluation have been received and approved by the school.

172 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (c), a (d) 173 student may participate in interscholastic athletic competition 174 or be a candidate for an interscholastic athletic team if the 175 parent of the student objects in writing to the student 176 undergoing a medical evaluation because such evaluation is 177 contrary to his or her religious tenets or practices. However, 178 in such case, there shall be no liability on the part of any 179 person or entity in a position to otherwise rely on the results 180 of such medical evaluation for any damages resulting from the student's injury or death arising directly from the student's 181 182 participation in interscholastic athletics where an undisclosed medical condition that would have been revealed in the medical 183 184 evaluation is a proximate cause of the injury or death.

(e) The FHSAA shall adopt bylaws that regulate persons who
 conduct investigations on behalf of the FHSAA. The bylaws shall
 include provisions that require an investigator to:

188 1. Undergo level 2 background screening under s. 435.04, 189 establishing that the investigator has not committed any 190 disqualifying offense listed in s. 435.04, unless the 191 investigator can provide proof of compliance with level 2 192 screening standards submitted within the previous 5 years to 193 meet any professional licensure requirements, provided: 194 a. The investigator has not had a break in service from a position that requires level 2 screening for more than 90 days; 195 196 and

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197	b. The investigator submits, under penalty of perjury, an
198	affidavit verifying that the investigator has not committed any
199	disqualifying offense listed in s. 435.04 and is in full
200	compliance with this paragraph.
201	2. Be appointed as an investigator by the executive
202	director.
203	3. Carry a photo identification card that shows the FHSAA
204	name, logo, and the investigator's official title.
205	4. Adhere to the following guidelines:
206	a. Investigate only those alleged violations assigned by
207	the executive director or the board of directors.
208	b. Conduct interviews on Monday through Friday between the
209	hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. only, unless previously agreed to by
210	the interviewee.
211	c. Allow the parent of any student being interviewed to be
212	present during the interview.
213	d. Search residences or other private areas only with the
214	permission of the executive director and the written consent of
215	the student's parent and only with a parent or a representative
216	of the parent present.
217	(f) The FHSAA shall adopt bylaws that establish sanctions
218	for coaches who have committed major violations of the FHSAA's
219	bylaws and policies.
220	1. Major violations include, but are not limited to,
221	knowingly allowing an ineligible student to participate in a
222	contest representing a member school in an interscholastic
223	contest or committing a violation of the FHSAA's recruiting or
224	sportsmanship policies.
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225	2. Sanctions placed upon an individual coach may include,
226	but are not limited to, prohibiting or suspending the coach from
227	coaching, participating in, or attending any athletic activity
228	sponsored, recognized, or sanctioned by the FHSAA and the member
229	school for which the coach committed the violation. If a coach
230	is sanctioned by the FHSAA and the coach transfers to another
231	member school, those sanctions remain in full force and effect
232	during the term of the sanction.
233	3. If a member school is assessed a financial penalty as a
234	result of a coach committing a major violation, the coach shall
235	reimburse the member school before being allowed to coach,
236	participate in, or attend any athletic activity sponsored,
237	recognized, or sanctioned by the FHSAA and a member school.
238	4. The FHSAA shall establish a due process procedure for
239	coaches sanctioned under this paragraph, consistent with the
240	appeals procedures set forth in subsection (7).
241	(g) The FHSAA shall adopt bylaws establishing the process
242	and standards by which FHSAA determinations of eligibility are
243	made. Such bylaws shall provide that:
244	1. Ineligibility must be established by clear and
245	convincing evidence;
246	2. Student athletes, parents, and schools must have notice
247	of the initiation of any investigation or other inquiry into
248	eligibility and may present, to the investigator and to the
249	individual making the eligibility determination, any information
250	or evidence that is credible, persuasive, and of a kind
251	reasonably prudent persons rely upon in the conduct of serious
252	affairs;
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253	3. An investigator may not determine matters of
254	eligibility but must submit information and evidence to the
255	executive director or a person designated by the executive
256	director or by the board of directors for an unbiased and
257	objective determination of eligibility; and
258	4. A determination of ineligibility must be made in
259	writing, setting forth the findings of fact and specific
260	violation upon which the decision is based.
261	(h) In lieu of bylaws adopted under paragraph (g), the
262	FHSAA may adopt bylaws providing as a minimum the procedural
263	safeguards of ss. 120.569 and 120.57, making appropriate
264	provision for appointment of unbiased and qualified hearing
265	officers.
266	(i) The FHSAA bylaws may not limit the competition of
267	student athletes prospectively for rule violations of their
268	school or its coaches or their adult representatives. The FHSAA
269	bylaws may not unfairly punish student athletes for eligibility
270	or recruiting violations perpetrated by a teammate, coach, or
271	administrator. Contests may not be forfeited for inadvertent
272	eligibility violations unless the coach or a school
273	administrator should have known of the violation. Contests may
274	not be forfeited for other eligibility violations or recruiting
275	violations in excess of the number of contests that the coaches
276	and adult representatives responsible for the violations are
277	prospectively suspended.
278	(3) GOVERNING STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION
279	(a) The <u>FHSAA</u> organization shall operate as a
280	representative democracy in which the sovereign authority is
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281 within its member schools. Except as provided in this section, 282 the <u>FHSAA</u> organization shall govern its affairs through its 283 bylaws.

(b) Each member school, on its annual application for
membership, shall name its official representative to the <u>FHSAA</u>
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) The <u>FHSAA's</u> 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 <u>FHSAA's</u> organization's board of directors, representative assembly, and appeals committees committee on appeals.

296

(4) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.-

297 The executive authority of the FHSAA organization (a) 298 shall be vested in its board of directors. Any entity that 299 appoints members to the board of directors shall examine the 300 ethnic and demographic composition of the board when selecting 301 candidates for appointment and shall, to the greatest extent 302 possible, make appointments that reflect state demographic and 303 population trends. The board of directors shall be composed of 304 16 persons, as follows:

305 1. Four public member school representatives, one elected 306 from among its public school representative members within each 307 of the four administrative regions.

308

2. Four nonpublic member school representatives, one

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309 elected from among its nonpublic school representative members 310 within each of the four administrative regions.

311 3. Three representatives appointed by the commissioner, 312 one appointed from the two northernmost administrative regions 313 and one appointed from the two southernmost administrative 314 regions. The third representative shall be appointed to balance 315 the board for diversity or state population trends, or both.

316 4. Two district school superintendents, one elected from 317 the two northernmost administrative regions by the members in 318 those regions and one elected from the two southernmost 319 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.

324 6. The commissioner or his or her designee from the325 department executive staff.

326 (b) A quorum of the board of directors shall consist of 327 nine members.

328 (c) The board of directors shall elect a president and a
 329 vice president from among its members. These officers shall also
 330 serve as officers of the <u>FHSAA</u> organization.

(d) Members of the board of directors shall serve terms of 322 3 years and are eligible to succeed themselves only once. A 333 member of the board of directors, other than the commissioner or 334 his or her designee, may serve a maximum of 6 consecutive years. 335 The <u>FHSAA's</u> organization's bylaws shall establish a rotation of 336 terms to ensure that a majority of the members' terms do not

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337 expire concurrently.

338 (e) The authority and duties of the board of directors,
339 acting as a body and in accordance with the <u>FHSAA's</u>
340 organization's bylaws, are as follows:

To act as the incorporated <u>FHSAA's</u> organization's board
 of directors and to fulfill its obligations as required by the
 <u>FHSAA's</u> organization's charter and articles of incorporation.

344 2. To establish such guidelines, regulations, policies,345 and procedures as are authorized by the bylaws.

346 3. To <u>employ</u> provide an <u>FHSAA executive director</u> 347 organization commissioner, who shall have the authority to waive 348 the bylaws of the <u>FHSAA</u> organization in order to comply with 349 statutory changes.

350 4. To levy annual dues and other fees and to set the
351 percentage of contest receipts to be collected by the <u>FHSAA</u>
352 organization.

5. To approve the budget of the FHSAA organization.

354 6. To organize and conduct statewide interscholastic
355 competitions, which may or may not lead to state championships,
356 and to establish the terms and conditions for these
357 competitions.

358 7. To act as an administrative board in the interpretation 359 of, and final decision on, all questions and appeals arising 360 from the directing of interscholastic athletics of member 361 schools.

362 (5) REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY.-

363 (a) The legislative authority of the <u>FHSAA</u> organization is
 364 vested in its representative assembly.

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365 (b) The representative assembly shall be composed of the 366 following:

367 1. An equal number of member school representatives from368 each of the four administrative regions.

369 2. Four district school superintendents, one elected from
370 each of the four administrative regions by the district school
371 superintendents in their respective administrative regions.

372 3. Four district school board members, one elected from
373 each of the four administrative regions by the district school
374 board members in their respective administrative regions.

375 4. The commissioner or his or her designee from the376 department executive staff.

(c) The <u>FHSAA's</u> 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.

381 (d) No member of the board of directors other than the 382 commissioner or his or her designee can serve in the 383 representative assembly.

384 (e) The representative assembly shall elect a chairperson385 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.

391 (g) A quorum of the representative assembly consists of392 one more than half of its members.

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FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIV	F	LΟ	RΙ	D A	нс	) U	SΕ	ΟF	RΕ	ΡR	E S	ΕN	ТА	ТΙ	VΕ	S
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393	(h) The authority of the representative assembly is
394	limited to its sole duty, which is to consider, adopt, or reject
395	any proposed amendments to the <u>FHSAA's</u> organization's bylaws.
396	(i) The representative assembly shall meet as a body
397	annually. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast by members
398	present is required for passage of any proposal.
399	(6) PUBLIC LIAISON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
400	(a) The <u>FHSAA</u> organization shall establish, sustain, fund,
401	and provide staff support to a public liaison advisory committee
402	composed of the following:
403	1. The commissioner or his or her designee.
404	2. A member public school principal.
405	3. A member private school principal.
406	4. A member school principal who is a member of a racial
407	minority.
408	5. An active athletic director.
409	6. An active coach, who is employed full time by a member
410	school.
411	7. A student athlete.
412	8. A district school superintendent.
413	9. A district school board member.
414	10. A member of the Florida House of Representatives.
415	11. A member of the Florida Senate.
416	12. A parent of a high school student.
417	13. A member of a home education association.
418	14. A representative of the business community.
419	15. A representative of the news media.
420	(b) No member of the board of directors, committee on
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421 appeals, or representative assembly is eligible to serve on the 422 public liaison advisory committee.

423 (c) The public liaison advisory committee shall elect a424 chairperson and vice chairperson from among its members.

425 (d) The authority and duties of the public liaison426 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 <u>FHSAA</u> organization and to assist the <u>FHSAA</u> organization in the development of procedures regarding the receipt of public input and disposition of complaints related to high school athletic and competition programs.

433 2. To conduct public hearings annually in each of the four
434 administrative regions during which interested parties may
435 address issues regarding the effectiveness of the rules,
436 operation, and management of the <u>FHSAA</u> organization.

437 To conduct an annual evaluation of the FHSAA 3. 438 organization as a whole and present a report of its findings, 439 conclusion, and recommendations to the board of directors, to 440 the commissioner, and to the respective education committees of 441 the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives. The 442 recommendations must delineate policies and procedures that will 443 improve the implementation and oversight of high school athletic 444 programs by the FHSAA organization.

(e) The public liaison advisory committee shall meet four
times annually. Additional meetings may be called by the
committee chairperson, the <u>FHSAA</u> organization president, or the
FHSAA executive director organization commissioner.

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449 (7) APPEALS.-

(a) The <u>FHSAA</u> 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. The <u>FHSAA's</u> organization's bylaws shall establish the
number, size, and composition of <u>each</u> the committee on appeals.

(b) No member of the board of directors is eligible to
serve on <u>a</u> the committee on appeals.

(c) Members of <u>a</u> the committee on appeals shall serve terms of 3 years and are eligible to succeed themselves only once. A member of <u>a</u> the committee on appeals may serve a maximum of 6 consecutive years. The <u>FHSAA's</u> 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 <u>a</u> 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 <u>or student</u>
athletes.

(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

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477	decision of the board of directors shall be final.
478	(f) The FHSAA shall expedite the appeals process on
479	determinations of ineligibility so that disposition of the
480	appeal can be made before the end of the applicable sports
481	season, if possible.
482	(g) In any appeal from a decision on eligibility made by
483	the executive director or a designee, a school or student
484	athlete filing the appeal must be permitted to present
485	information and evidence that was not available at the time of
486	the initial determination or if the determination was not made
487	by an unbiased, objective individual using a process allowing
488	full due process rights to be heard and to present evidence. If
489	evidence is presented on appeal, a de novo decision must be made
490	by the committee or board hearing the appeal, or the
491	determination may be suspended and the matter remanded for a new
492	determination based on all the evidence. If a de novo decision
493	is made on appeal, the decision must be made in writing, setting
494	forth the findings of fact and specific violation upon which the
495	decision is based. If a de novo decision is not required, the
496	decision appealed must be set aside if the decision on
497	ineligibility was not based on clear and convincing evidence.
498	Any further appeal shall be considered on a record that includes
499	all evidence presented.
500	(8) AMENDMENT OF BYLAWSEach member school
501	representative, the board of directors acting as a whole or as
502	members acting individually, any advisory committee acting as a
503	whole to be established by the <u>FHSAA</u> organization, and the
504	FHSAA's executive director organization's commissioner are
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505 empowered to propose amendments to the bylaws. Any other 506 individual may propose an amendment by securing the sponsorship 507 of any of the aforementioned individuals or bodies. All proposed 508 amendments must be submitted directly to the representative 509 assembly for its consideration. The representative assembly, while empowered to adopt, reject, or revise proposed amendments, 510 511 may not, in and of itself, as a body be allowed to propose any 512 amendment for its own consideration.

513 (9) RULES ADOPTION.—The bylaws of the organization shall 514 require member schools to adopt rules for sports, which have 515 been established by a nationally recognized sanctioning body, 516 unless waived by at least a two-thirds vote of the board of 517 directors.

518 Section 3. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (2) of 519 section 1012.468, Florida Statutes, to read:

520 1012.468 Exceptions to certain fingerprinting and criminal 521 history checks.-

522 (2) A district school board shall exempt from the
523 screening requirements set forth in ss. 1012.465 and 1012.467
524 the following noninstructional contractors:

525 (g) An investigator for the Florida High School Athletic 526 Association (FHSAA) who meets the requirements under s. 527 <u>1006.20(2)(e).</u>

528

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

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