

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 476

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES FUNDERBURK (Sponsor), PARKINSON, BURLISON,  
WALTON GRAY AND HOLSMAN (Co-sponsors).

1277L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to interscholastic athletics.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be  
2 known as section 160.1175, to read as follows:

3       **160.1175. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Students First**  
4 **Interscholastic Athletics Act".**

5       **2. It is the intent of the general assembly that every student of high school age has**  
6 **the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics, including, but not limited to:**

7       **(1) Students who attend public school;**

8       **(2) Students who attend private school;**

9       **(3) Students who pursue their education through the virtual public school**  
10 **established in section 161.670; and**

11       **(4) Students who complete their education through a program of home schooling.**

12       **3. It is the intent of the general assembly that all students of high school age have**  
13 **equal access to interscholastic athletics, regardless of background and education program.**

14       **4. Any student of high school age in Missouri described in subsection 2 of this**  
15 **section shall have the opportunity to seek to participate in interscholastic athletics through**  
16 **the school that he or she attends. If the student's school of attendance does not offer**  
**interscholastic athletics, the student shall have the opportunity to participate in**  
**interscholastic athletics through his or her public school district of residence.**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17           **5. Each school that offers interscholastic athletics shall identify and make public,**  
18 **by July first of each year, the individual sports and athletic programs that it shall provide**  
19 **to students. When providing such information, each school shall identify an approximate**  
20 **number of athletes that may participate on each sports team at such time.**

21           **6. To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, a student shall:**

22           **(1) Be not less than fourteen years of age but not older than nineteen years of age;**

23           **(2) Be a resident of the state of Missouri;**

24           **(3) Be a United States citizen, United States national, permanent resident of the**  
25 **United States, or otherwise have lawful presence in the United States;**

26           **(4) Provide affirmative proof of identity;**

27           **(5) Be completing an education program as described in subsection 2 of this section;**

28           **(6) Complete an application for athletic participation as required by the school;**

29           **(7) Be declared able to participate in athletic activities by a physician or healthcare**  
30 **provider licensed to practice in Missouri;**

31           **(8) Be maintaining a satisfactory grade point average sufficient to meet the school**  
32 **district's academic policy to participate in athletics or making satisfactory progress in his**  
33 **or her education program that is considered equivalent to the school district's academic**  
34 **policy to participate in athletics.**

35           **7. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a school or school district**  
36 **to allow all students to participate in interscholastic athletics. A school or school district**  
37 **shall have discretion as to which students may participate on a team. However, any**  
38 **student who desires to participate may seek to participate.**

39           **8. No school or school district shall discriminate against a student seeking to**  
40 **participate in interscholastic athletics based on his or her choice of education program.**