

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 531

5 By: Senator B. King  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETIC GAMES HELD  
9 BETWEEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS; AND FOR  
10 OTHER PURPOSES.  
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### Subtitle

12 CONCERNING CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETIC GAMES  
13 HELD BETWEEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE  
14 SCHOOLS.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 1, is amended  
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 6-18-114. Athletic activity – State championship.

24 (a) The Arkansas Activities Association shall create two (2) separate:

25 (1) Athletic conference systems for public schools and private  
26 schools; and

27 (2)(A) Play-off systems for public schools and private schools.

28 (B) The winner of the public school play-off game shall be  
29 the public school champion.

30 (C) The winner of the private school play-off game shall  
31 be the private school champion.

32 (b) The association may establish an overall state championship system  
33 according to how the association classifies the teams.

34 (c)(1) If a public school athletic team wins a state championship game  
35 against a private school athletic team, then the public school athletic team  
36 shall be considered the overall state champion and the public school state



1 champion.

2 (2)(A) However, if a public school athletic team loses a state  
3 championship game against a private school, the public school athletic team  
4 shall be considered only the public school state champion.

5 (B) This subsection (c) shall be retroactive to a public  
6 school athletic team that has played against and lost to a private school  
7 athletic team before the effective date of this act.

8 (d)(1) If a private school athletic team wins a state championship  
9 game against a public school athletic team, then the private school athletic  
10 team shall be considered the overall state champion and the private school  
11 state champion.

12 (2)(A) However, if a private school athletic team loses a state  
13 championship game against a public school, the private school athletic team  
14 shall be considered only the private school state champion.

15 (B) This subsection (d) shall be retroactive to a private  
16 school athletic team that has played against and lost to a public school  
17 athletic team before the effective date of this act.

18 (e) As used in this section, "athletic team" means the student or  
19 group of students who participate in a school-affiliated sport at the school  
20 in which he or she is enrolled.

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