

HOUSE BILL 429

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to participation in athletics by home schooled students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 4, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-6-4__.

(a) A home schooled student who wishes to participate in athletics for a Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association member school shall comply with the following:

(1) The student shall be enrolled in a home school study program in compliance with Section 49-6-3050(b)(1) and be registered with the local school superintendent by September 1 of the current school year;

(2) The student shall have a legal residence within the school district where such student is registered;

(3) The parent or guardian of the home school student shall apply in writing to the local principal of the school to which the home school student plans to attend. A home school student shall furnish information from a national normed reference test that indicates the child is at or above the grade level in which such student intends to compete;

(4) The student shall meet all other Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association eligibility requirements not in conflict with this act; and

(5) The home schooled student shall adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance and code of conduct as other team participants.

(b) A LEA may impose a participation fee for each athletic sport in which a home school student wishes to compete. Such participation fee may not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300) annually for each sport. A participation fee shall be waived or reduced if such fee would present an economic hardship to the home schooled student, preventing the home schooled student from participating in the athletic event.

(c) Eligibility issues on all other matters other than academic progress may be appealed in accordance with provisions adopted by the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.