

Informational post:

HB 857-Homeschool Activities - Allows home school students to participate in activities sponsored by a statewide activities association for the public school district in which they reside –
Sponsored by Rep. Dirk Deaton

FHE's position- Neutral

FHE sees no threat to homeschool freedoms in this bill.

There are many states which allow homeschool students to participate in public school sports and extracurricular activities and have had no adverse effects on homeschool freedoms.

For those that may be interested, HB 857 passed the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee Tuesday, March 26, with 2 amendments.

The House Committee Substitute for HB 857 was Reported Do Pass by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee: 7 ayes and 6 noes.

HCS bill for HB 857 was then referred to the Rules-Administrative Oversight Committee.

View the House Substitute Committee bill for HB 857 by going to:

<https://house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills191/hlrbillspdf/1557H.02C.pdf>

1. HB 857 now states, "the individual who primarily provides instruction to the student shall submit a written verification to the public school indicating that the student is proficient in each course or subject taught."
2. On page one number 3 they deleted the word "registration":

"A home school student who seeks to participate or who participates in an association activity or in a club, extracurricular activity, or sport that is authorized by the public school on behalf of a public school is subject to the relevant policies that apply to students enrolled in the public school, including policies regarding ~~registration~~, age eligibility, fees, insurance, transportation, physical condition, qualifications, responsibilities, event schedules, standards of behavior, and performance."

And on page 2 number 5 the amendment deleted all wording related to "exclusively homeschooled":

A home school student is authorized by this section to participate in an association activity or in a club, extracurricular activity, or sport that is authorized by the public school only if the home school student has been ~~exclusively~~ home schooled for one year prior to his or her participation. ~~For purposes of this subsection, "exclusively home schooled" means that the student attends a home school and is not enrolled in or attending any public or private school.~~

This will ensure that a homeschool student will not be excluded from the public school association activity just because they are taking a supplementary course at a coop, public school, private school, etc.

For more information about the bill visit:

<https://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB857&year=2019&code=R>