

HCS HB 1834 -- EXTRACURRICULAR AND INTERSCHOLASTIC OPPORTUNITIES
ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT

SPONSOR: Dieckhaus (Funderburk)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 16 to 1.

This substitute establishes the Extracurricular and Interscholastic Opportunities Anti-Discrimination Act, which requires that any organized nonpublic school team made up of students who are complying with the compulsory attendance law must not be discriminated against. Any student on the team who is not in compliance must be disqualified, but that student's disqualification must not be used in determining qualifications or prerequisites for any other individual on the team or the team as a whole. No public school or school district can hold membership or affiliation with any private or public organization which discriminates against any organized team of nonpublic school students in any interscholastic or extracurricular program of athletics, clubs, or associations. A school-sponsored intramural or interscholastic athletic program, club, or association or other extracurricular activity cannot discriminate by disallowing participation of any group or team of nonpublic students on the basis of the students' private or home school enrollment.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that 26 states allow home school teams to play in their organized sports programs, including five of Missouri's neighboring states. Despite repeated attempts to change the bylaws, the membership of the Missouri High School Sports Association still prohibits participation by teams of home-schoolers and makes it difficult for individual home-schooled children to play on a public or private school team.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Funderburk; Families for Home Education; Gabriel Jones, Central Missouri Homeschool Basketball Association; and Gary Brehe, St. Louis Homeschool Basketball Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that public schools are concerned with liability issues and how academic standards for home schooled students would be verified.

Testifying against the bill were Kenny Siebert, Moberly Public Schools Athletic Director; William Pierce; David Laughlin, President, St. Louis University High School; Missouri National

Education Association; and Missouri State Teachers Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the high school activities association has tried to move with the times.

Testifying on the bill was Kerwin Urhahn, Executive Director, Missouri State High School Activities Association.