

HB 2802 -- MSHSAA PARTICIPATION HOME SCHOOL

SPONSOR: Mathews

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 6 to 3.

This bill specifies that any public school that participates in any activity sponsored by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) must provide home school students, who reside in their attendance area, with the opportunity to participate in the activity on behalf of the public school in the same manner that the opportunity is provided to the students enrolled in the school. A home school student who participates or seeks to participate in an activity is subject to the same registration, age eligibility, fees, insurance, transportation, physical condition, qualifications, responsibilities, event schedules, standards of behavior, and performance requirements as enrolled students. The person who primarily provides home school instruction to the student must certify that the student is receiving a passing grade in each course and is maintaining satisfactory academic advancement. If the home school student was previously enrolled in a public school during a school year, the student is not authorized to participate during the remainder of that school year. The association cannot prohibit a home school student from participating in activities in compliance with these provisions.

This bill is similar to HB 232 (2015).

PROponents: Supporters say that home schooled students' families pay property taxes, which support local school districts. Home schooled students should have the same opportunities to participate in these activities and experiences and 27 other states allow them to do so.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Mathews; Eva Jones; and the Missouri Family Network.

OPponents: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill could allow certain rules to be circumvented such as academic requirements, residency, undue influence, and amateurism.

Testifying against the bill were Scott Kimble, Missouri Council Of School Administrators and the Missouri Alliance For Art Education.