

HCS HB 494 -- HOME SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (Hurlbert)

This bill specifies that a school district shall not receive funding under the Foundation Formula if the district is a member of, or remits any funds to, any statewide activities association that prohibits a home school student from participating in any event or activity offered by the school district, or if the school district prohibits a student from participating in any event or activity or requires a home school student to attend the public school for any portion of a school day, except that they may be required to attend one class if the class is directly related to the event or activity.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is required to withhold payments to districts in violation of this bill until such district proves to the State Board of Education (SBE) that the school district has ceased membership in the organization.

This bill further provides that a statewide activities association shall not prohibit or restrict any school district that is a member of the association from participating in any events authorized or regulated by the association with any school that is not a member of the association, that school discipline policies will apply to home school students, and records created pertaining to a home school student will be made confidential.

This bill is similar to HB 2273 and SB 875 (2020) and SB 130 (2019).