

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2902

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 20, 2022

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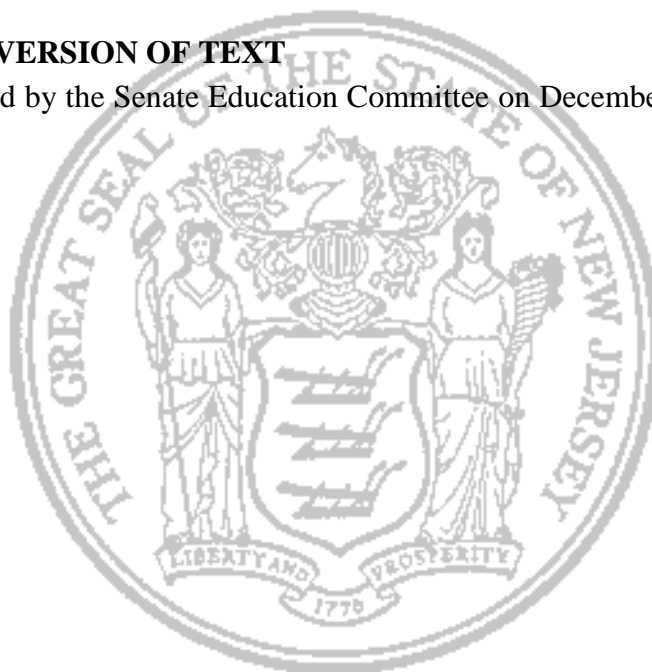
Assemblyman Sampson

SYNOPSIS

Allows ticket prices at postseason athletic events to be increased to offset event-related expenses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on December 1, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning ticket prices at postseason athletic events and
2 amending P.L.2007, c.41.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.41 (C.18A:11-3.1) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. As used in this section:

10 "CPI" means the average annual increase, expressed as a
11 decimal, in the consumer price index for the New York City and
12 Philadelphia areas during the fiscal year preceding the prebudget
13 year as reported by the United States Department of Labor.

14 b. A public school district shall not join pursuant to section 1
15 of P.L.1979, c.172 (C.18A:11-3), any voluntary association which
16 oversees activities associated with Statewide interscholastic sports
17 programs if:

18 (1) the association charges a cable television company an
19 increased licensing fee, rate, assessment or other consideration for
20 the broadcast of playoff games over local access or local originating
21 channels, or both, compared to the licensing fee, rate, assessment or
22 other consideration charged by the district for the broadcast of
23 regular season games over local access or local originating
24 channels, or both;

25 (2) the association requires increased ticket prices for
26 attendance at playoff games compared to regular season games¹,
27 unless the playoff game is held at a location other than a public
28 school and the increased ticket prices are deemed necessary by the
29 Commissioner of Education. In the event that the playoff game is
30 held at a location other than a public school and the commissioner
31 deems an increase in playoff ticket prices is necessary, a public
32 school district shall not join an association that increases adult
33 ticket prices by more than 200% of the cost of the highest adult
34 ticket prices for the regular season games charged by any of the
35 member teams of the athletic conference that is located in closest
36 proximity to the playoff game location, regardless of whether or not
37 any of the playoff teams are members of that athletic conference;
38 and in the event that two or more athletic conferences are equal in
39 distance to the playoff game location, by not more than 200% of the
40 cost of the highest adult ticket prices for regular season games
41 charged by any of the member teams of those athletic conferences.
42 Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph to the contrary,
43 the commissioner may allow a public school district to join an
44 association that charges in excess of the amount herein provided if
45 the association demonstrates to the commissioner that the increased

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted December 1, 2022.

1 ticket prices are required to offset rental, staffing, security, or
2 insurance costs specific to the location site.

3 In no event shall the commissioner deem an increase in ticket
4 prices for senior citizens or children to be necessary] unless the
5 increased ticket prices are required to offset event-related expenses
6 including, but not limited to, rental, staffing, security, or insurance
7 costs. If increased ticket prices are required to offset event-related
8 expenses at a playoff game held at a public school, a public school
9 district shall not join an association that increases adult ticket prices
10 at that playoff game by more than 300 percent of the cost of a
11 regular season adult ticket charged for a comparable event at the
12 school district where the playoff game is held.

13 The association shall provide for discounted prices on student
14 tickets for playoff games due to economic hardship, as determined
15 by the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. The
16 association may provide discounted ticket prices for ¹[senior
17 citizens and children] other groups as deemed necessary by the
18 association in consultation with the school district where the playoff
19 game is held¹.

20 The association shall file playoff game ticket prices with the
21 Commissioner of Education no later than ¹[30] 60¹ days prior to
22 the scheduled playoff game ¹, except that the association may
23 subsequently file adjusted playoff game ticket prices with the
24 commissioner no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled playoff
25 game¹;

26 (3) the association charges a membership fee for the 2009-2010
27 school year which exceeds the membership fee for the 2008-2009
28 school year multiplied by 1 plus the CPI, and in any subsequent
29 school year charges a membership fee that exceeds the prior school
30 year fee multiplied by 1 plus the CPI, unless the Commissioner of
31 Education deems a greater increase in the membership fee is
32 necessary;

33 (4) the association charges members an entry fee for teams or
34 individuals competing in playoff games for the 2009-2010 school
35 year which exceeds the entry fee for the 2008-2009 school year
36 multiplied by 1 plus the CPI, and in any subsequent school year
37 charges members an entry fee that exceeds the prior school year fee
38 multiplied by 1 plus the CPI, unless the Commissioner of Education
39 deems a greater increase in the entry fee is necessary; or

40 (5) the association charges members any assessment in addition
41 to the membership fee, unless the Commissioner of Education
42 deems an additional assessment is necessary.

43 c. If any provision of this section is determined by the
44 Commissioner of Education to jeopardize the amateur status of the
45 student-athlete, that provision shall be null and void.

46 (cf: P.L.2007, c.41, s.1)

47

48 2. This act shall take effect immediately.