

SENATE, No. 2901

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.

District 13 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Corrado

SYNOPSIS

Allows certain public high school student-athletes to substitute study hall for physical education during their athletic seasons.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/28/2024)

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1 AN ACT concerning physical education instruction in public high
2 schools and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.18A:35-7,
9 N.J.S.18A:35-8, or any other law to the contrary, a public high
10 school student in tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade who participates
11 in a school-sponsored sport and is scheduled to attend a physical
12 education course during the athletic season of that sport may elect
13 to substitute the physical education course with a study hall during
14 that athletic season. The student's participation in the sport shall
15 count towards the student's physical education requirement for
16 graduation, and the student shall receive the number of high school
17 graduation credits equal to the number received for completion of
18 the physical education course.

19 b. (1) The parent or guardian of a student seeking to substitute a
20 physical education course with a study hall pursuant to subsection
21 a. of this section shall provide the school district with written
22 approval for the substitution.

23 (2) The coach of the school-sponsored sport shall certify to the
24 school district the student's participation in the sport.

25 c. The school district shall determine for purposes of this act
26 which school athletic activities constitute a school-sponsored sport.

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28 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
29 the 2024-2025 school year.

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32 STATEMENT

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34 This bill permits a public high school student in the tenth,
35 eleventh, or twelfth grade who participates in a school-sponsored
36 sport and who is scheduled to attend a physical education course
37 during the athletic season of that sport to substitute the physical
38 education course with a study hall. The student who chooses to
39 substitute the physical education course with a study hall is to
40 receive for participation in the sport the number of high school
41 graduation credits equal to the number received for completion of
42 the physical education course.

43 The bill requires the parent or guardian of the student to provide
44 the school district with written approval for the substitution. The
45 coach of the school-sponsored sport is given the responsibility to
46 certify to the school district the student's participation in the sport.

47 The bill provides that the school district is to determine which
48 school athletic activities constitute a school-sponsored sport. Only

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1 student-athletes participating in school-sponsored sports will be
2 permitted to elect to substitute study hall for physical education
3 during that athletic season.

4 This bill does not exempt students from the statutory requirement
5 that they attend at least two and one-half hours per school week of
6 health and safety education courses, when these courses are
7 scheduled. This bill also does not affect the physical education
8 requirement for students in grades one through eight or for high
9 school students who do not participate in school-sponsored sports.