**South Carolina General Assembly**

121st Session, 2015-2016

**A24, R45, S154**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Shealy and Campsen

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Introduced in the Senate on January 13, 2015

Introduced in the House on February 3, 2015

Passed by the General Assembly on May 14, 2015

Governor's Action: June 1, 2015, Signed

Summary: Interscholastic activities

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/3/2014 Senate Prefiled

12/3/2014 Senate Referred to Committee on **Education**

1/13/2015 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 106](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\01-13-15.docx))

1/13/2015 Senate Referred to Committee on **Education** ([Senate Journal‑page 106](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\01-13-15.docx))

1/27/2015 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Education** ([Senate Journal‑page 17](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\01-27-15.docx))

1/28/2015 Scrivener's error corrected

1/28/2015 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 32](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\01-28-15.docx))

1/28/2015 Senate Roll call Ayes‑39 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 32](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\01-28-15.docx))

1/29/2015 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\01-29-15.docx))

2/3/2015 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 25](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\02-03-15.docx))

2/3/2015 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 25](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\02-03-15.docx))

4/23/2015 House Committee report: Favorable **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-23-15.docx))

4/28/2015 Scrivener's error corrected

4/28/2015 House Debate adjourned until Thur., 4‑30‑15 ([House Journal‑page 78](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-28-15.docx))

4/30/2015 House Debate adjourned until Tues., 5‑5‑15 ([House Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-30-15.docx))

5/5/2015 House Requests for debate‑Rep(s). Hiott, GM Smith, Spires, Wells, Clary, Sottile, Kirby, Anderson, Cyburn, Corley, McEachern, Douglas, Cobb‑Hunter, McKnight, Ridgeway, Hayes, Daning, Crosby, Anthony, Bales, Southard, Jefferson ([House Journal‑page 26](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-05-15.docx))

5/7/2015 House Debate adjourned until Wed., 5‑13‑15 ([House Journal‑page 57](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-07-15.docx))

5/13/2015 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 30](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-13-15.docx))

5/13/2015 House Roll call Yeas‑98 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 30](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-13-15.docx))

5/14/2015 House Read third time and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 22](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-14-15.docx))

5/28/2015 Ratified R 45

6/1/2015 Signed By Governor

6/4/2015 Effective date 06/01/15

6/5/2015 Act No. 24

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=154&session=121&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/3/2014](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\154_20141203.docx)

[1/27/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\154_20150127.docx)

[1/28/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\154_20150128.docx)

[4/23/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\154_20150423.docx)

[4/28/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\154_20150428.docx)

(A24, R45, S154)

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 59‑39‑160, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY GRANT A WAIVER OF THE REQUIREMENTS IF A STUDENT’S INELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IS DUE TO A LONG‑TERM ABSENCE AS A RESULT OF A MEDICAL CONDITION, BUT THE STUDENT HAS BEEN MEDICALLY CLEARED TO PARTICIPATE OR FOR ANY OTHER REASONABLE CIRCUMSTANCE AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

**Waivers expanded**

SECTION 1. Section 59‑39‑160 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 59‑39‑160. (A) To participate in interscholastic activities, students in grades nine through twelve must achieve an overall passing average and either:

(1) pass at least four academic courses, including each unit the student takes that is required for graduation; or

(2) pass a total of five academic courses. Students must satisfy these conditions in the semester preceding participation in the interscholastic activity, if the interscholastic activity occurs completely within one semester or in the semester preceding the first semester of participation in an interscholastic activity if the interscholastic activity occurs over two consecutive semesters and is under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina High School League.

(B) Academic courses are those courses of instruction for which credit toward high school graduation is given. These may be required or approved electives. All activities currently under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina High School League remain in effect. The monitoring of all other interscholastic activities is the responsibility of the local boards of trustees. Those students diagnosed as handicapped in accordance with the criteria established by the State Board of Education and satisfying the requirements of their Individual Education Plan (IEP) as required by Public Law 94‑142 are permitted to participate in interscholastic activities. A local school board of trustees may impose more stringent standards than those contained in this section for participation in interscholastic activities by students in grades nine through twelve.

(C) The State Board of Education may grant a waiver of the requirements of this section.

(1) This waiver may be granted when a written statement from a school district superintendent and athletic director has been received stating circumstances, including, but not limited to:

(a) a student’s ineligibility to participate in interscholastic activities is due to misinformation concerning eligibility requirements being provided by district personnel;

(b) a student’s ineligibility to participate in interscholastic activities is due to a long‑term absence as a result of a medical condition, but the student has been medically cleared to participate by his health care practitioner; or

(c) any reasonable circumstance as determined by the State Board of Education.

(2) The State Board of Education shall establish guidelines to administer this section.”

**Time effective**

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 28th day of May, 2015.

Approved the 1st day of June, 2015.

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