

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2902

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 1, 2022

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2902 with committee amendments.

As amended by the committee, this bill revises legislation enacted in 2007 related to ticket prices at postseason athletic events.

Under the provisions of the amended bill, a school district is not permitted to join any voluntary association which oversees activities associated with Statewide interscholastic sports programs if the association requires increased ticket prices for attendance at playoff games compared to regular season games, unless those increased ticket prices are required to offset event-related expenses including, but not limited to, rental, staffing, security, or insurance costs. The amended bill provides that in addition to the requirement that prices of postseason tickets be increased only to offset event-related expenses, in the case of a playoff game held at a public school, a school district is not permitted to join an association that increases adult ticket prices at that playoff game by more than 300 percent of the cost of a regular season adult ticket charged for a comparable event at the school district where the playoff game is held.

The amended bill also requires that the association provide for discounted prices on student tickets for playoff games due to economic hardship, as determined by the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. In addition, the association may provide for discounted ticket prices for other groups as deemed necessary by the association in consultation with the school district where the playoff game is held.

Under the amended bill, the association is required to file playoff game ticket prices with the Commissioner of Education no later than 60 days prior to the scheduled playoff game, although the association may subsequently file adjusted playoff game ticket prices with the commissioner no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled playoff game.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- 1) permit the association to provide discounted ticket prices to those groups deemed necessary by the association, in consultation with the school district where the playoff game is held; as introduced, discounts would only have been available to senior citizens and children; and
- 2) require the association to file playoff ticket game prices with the Commissioner of Education 60 days prior to the scheduled playoff game, except that the association may subsequently file adjusted playoff game ticket prices with the commissioner no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled playoff game.