

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4832

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 3, 2015

**Assemblyman JOHN J. BURZICHELLI**  
**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**  
**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**  
**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**  
**Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON**  
**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**  
**Assemblywoman Jones**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits school districts from joining associations which oversee Statewide interscholastic sports unless association limits certain student-athletes who repeat middle school grade to only six consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility after entering ninth grade.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/12/2016)**

1 AN ACT concerning school district participation in certain voluntary  
2 associations and supplementing chapter 11 of Title 18A of the  
3 New Jersey Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. a. As used in this section;  
9 “Hold-back repeat student” means a student who has  
10 successfully completed the academic requirements that have been  
11 established for the sixth, seventh, or eighth grades and who repeats  
12 one or more of these grades prior to entering the ninth grade for  
13 purposes of gaining athletic advantage.

14 b. A school district shall not join pursuant to section 1 of  
15 P.L.1979, c.172 (C.18A:11-3), any voluntary association which  
16 oversees activities associated with Statewide interscholastic sports  
17 programs unless the association requires that when a hold-back  
18 repeat student enters the ninth grade for the first time, the student  
19 shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for only  
20 the next ensuing six consecutive semesters.

21  
22 2. This act shall take effect in the first full school year  
23 following the date of enactment.

24  
25 STATEMENT

26  
27 This bill prohibits school districts from joining voluntary  
28 associations which oversee Statewide interscholastic sports  
29 programs under certain circumstances. Under the bill, school  
30 districts are prohibited from joining any such association unless the  
31 association requires that when a “hold-back repeat student” enters  
32 the ninth grade for the first time, the student will be eligible to  
33 participate in interscholastic athletics for only the next ensuing six  
34 consecutive semesters. The bill defines a “hold-back repeat  
35 student” as a student who has successfully completed the academic  
36 requirements that have been established for the sixth, seventh, or  
37 eighth grades and who repeats one or more of these grades prior to  
38 entering the ninth grade for purposes of gaining athletic advantage.

39 Under the current rules of the association which oversees  
40 interscholastic sports programs in the State, the New Jersey State  
41 Interscholastic Athletic Association, a student-athlete is eligible to  
42 compete as a high school senior provided that he does not turn 19  
43 prior to September 1 of that school year. These rules also provide  
44 that an athlete may only play interscholastic high school sports for  
45 eight consecutive semesters. This bill is designed to help curtail the  
46 practice whereby student-athletes seek to gain athletic advantage at  
47 the high school level by repeating sixth, seventh, or eighth grade  
48 despite having met the academic requirements for those grades.