

SENATE, No. 3447

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)
Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Allen

SYNOPSIS

Requires New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association to allow public high schools in same school district to enter into cooperative sports programs if schools are unable to field varsity teams individually.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/19/2017)

1 AN ACT concerning certain Statewide interscholastic sports
2 programs and supplementing chapter 11 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association
9 shall allow public high schools in the same school district to enter
10 into a cooperative sports program for any sport at the varsity level,
11 regardless of the member schools' Group classification, if either of
12 the schools demonstrates an inability to field a team at the varsity
13 level due to: a decline in interest or participation in the sport at one
14 of the schools that impacts the ability of that school to safely field a
15 team; or budgetary constraints which force the elimination of
16 certain sports programs at one of the schools.

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18 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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21 STATEMENT

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23 This bill requires the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic
24 Association (NJSIAA) to allow public high schools in the same
25 school district to enter into a cooperative sports program for any
26 sport at the varsity level if either of the schools demonstrates an
27 inability to field a team at the varsity level due to: a decline in
28 interest or participation in the sport at one of the schools that
29 impacts the ability of that school to safely field a team; or
30 budgetary constraints which force the elimination of certain sports
31 programs at one of the schools.

32 Under the current rules of the NJSIAA, schools are prohibited
33 from entering into cooperative sports programs for basketball,
34 baseball, softball and spring track, and in football if one of the
35 schools is classified as a Group III school. This bill requires the
36 NJSIAA to allow the schools to enter into cooperative sports
37 programs regardless of the sport or the member schools' Group
38 classification.

39 This bill helps to ensure that all students within a school district
40 have equal access to certain extracurricular programs regardless of
41 which school in the district they attend.