

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1682**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**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)**

**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**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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

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

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

| 25 | STATEMENT |
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Under the current rules of the association which oversees interscholastic sports programs in the State, the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, a student-athlete is eligible to compete as a high school senior provided that he does not turn 19 prior to September 1 of that school year. These rules also provide that an athlete may only play interscholastic high school sports for eight consecutive semesters. This bill is designed to help curtail the practice whereby student-athletes seek to gain athletic advantage at the high school level by repeating sixth, seventh, or eighth grade despite having met the academic requirements for those grades.