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## DIGEST

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Henry

HB No. 531

**Abstract:** Provides eligibility for certain home study students to participate in public school interscholastic extracurricular activities in accordance with specified guidelines, procedures, and limitations.

Proposed law provides (beginning with the 2009-2010 school year and continuing thereafter) that a student participating in a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in accordance with R.S. 17:236.1 shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities in public elementary and secondary schools in accordance with the provisions of proposed law.

Specifies that to be eligible to participate in an interscholastic extracurricular activity as provided by proposed law, the home study student shall meet each of the following conditions and comply with other applicable provisions of proposed law:

- (1) The activity is provided by a public school that the student would otherwise be eligible to attend.
- (2) The student's participation is approved by the principal of the school. Provides that a request to participate and the approval determination by the principal shall be made in a timely manner. Requires that prior to any such determination, the student shall be provided an equal opportunity to qualify for such participation. Specifies that the fact that the student is enrolled in a home study program shall not be a factor in the determination. Also specifies that an approval determination made by a principal shall be final.
- (3) At the time of participating in the activity, the student and the home study program are in full compliance with all guidelines, standards, and requirements established by state law (R.S. 17:236.1).
- (4) The student meets academic standards required of a public school student to participate in the activity. Provides that before participating and as often as required, the student shall provide the following:
  - (a) Documentation from BESE that the student's home study program is approved.
  - (b) A copy of the student's transcript showing units of study completed or in progress,

the grades earned for such study, and the student's cumulative GPA.

- (c) A written statement of assurance from a student's parent that participation in the activity is not interfering with or hindering the student's academic progress.
- (5) The student meets all other standards and requirements applicable to a public school student to participate in the activity, including but not limited to tryouts, schedules, forms, fees, and transportation arrangements.
- (6) The student meets conditions applicable to public school students relative to having any required insurance coverage.

Provides that a student who has been enrolled in a public or nonpublic school during the school year in which the student begins home study or during the previous school year and who was determined ineligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities for reasons related to conduct or academic performance shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities as provided by proposed law for one year from the date the student was determined ineligible.

Specifies that a student who has been enrolled in a public or nonpublic school during the school year in which the student begins home study shall not be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities during the remainder of that school year or the next.

Provides that any rule or regulation of the La. High School Athletic Association and of any other organization or entity which requires as a condition of eligibility to participate in an interscholastic extracurricular activity that a student be enrolled in or attend, or both, a public or state-approved nonpublic school shall not apply to a home study student who is eligible to participate in the activity in a public school in accordance with the provisions of proposed law or who is eligible to participate in the activity in a state-approved nonpublic school in accordance with standards and procedures adopted by the governing authority of the nonpublic school that are substantially similar to those provided by proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:236.3)