

By: Representatives Boyd, Williamson

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 498

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE KNOWN AS THE "TIM  
 2 TEBOW ACT"; TO DEFINE THE TERMS "HOMESCHOOL" AND "INTERSCHOLASTIC  
 3 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY"; TO AUTHORIZE STUDENTS BEING EDUCATED IN  
 4 HOMESCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR  
 5 ACTIVITIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN CONDITIONS  
 6 UNDER WHICH A STUDENT BEING EDUCATED IN A HOMESCHOOL MAY  
 7 PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR  
 8 ACTIVITIES; TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS  
 9 IN THE SELECTION OF TEAMS FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES; TO SPECIFY A  
 10 WAITING PERIOD FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION WHEN A  
 11 STUDENT TRANSFERS FROM A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO A HOMESCHOOL; TO PROVIDE  
 12 THAT PARTICIPATION IN AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY IS A PRIVILEGE  
 13 AND NOT A RIGHT; TO AUTHORIZE HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT  
 14 FAMILIES TO ORGANIZE AND FORM EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY TEAMS FOR  
 15 THE PURPOSE OF COMPETING AGAINST PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO REQUIRE THE  
 16 STATE ASSOCIATION GOVERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TO ADOPT  
 17 RULES AND REGULATIONS TO FACILITATE THE HOMESCHOOL TEAMS'  
 18 PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY COMPETITIONS; AND FOR  
 19 RELATED PURPOSES.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

21 **SECTION 1.** (1) This section shall be known and may be cited  
 22 as the "Tim Tebow Act."

23 (2) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
 24 have the meanings ascribed in this subsection unless the context  
 25 clearly indicates otherwise:



26           (a) "Homeschool" means a nonpublic school in which one  
27 or more children of not more than two (2) families or households  
28 receive full-time supervised academic instruction from a parent,  
29 legal guardian or member of either household.

30           (b) "Interscholastic extracurricular activity" or  
31 "extracurricular activity" means participation in a  
32 school-authorized academic, choral, band or sports team practice  
33 or competition.

34           (3) (a) A student being educated in a homeschool is  
35 eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular  
36 activities sponsored by or engaged in by the public school to  
37 which the student would be assigned according to the attendance  
38 policies of the school district in which the student resides or  
39 which the student could choose to attend pursuant to any open  
40 enrollment policies in the same school district. A student who is  
41 selected under this section to participate in an extracurricular  
42 activity must:

43                   (i) Pay any participation or activity fee in an  
44 amount equal to the fee charged to public school students;

45                   (ii) Adhere to the same standards of behavior,  
46 responsibility, performance and code of conduct as public school  
47 participants in the extracurricular activity;

48                   (iii) Adhere to the same academic standards as  
49 other participants, with the student's performance in relation to  
50 those standards confirmed by appropriate documentation provided by



51 the student to the public school in which the student will  
52 participate in the extracurricular activity;

53 (iv) Register with the school the student's intent  
54 to participate in the extracurricular activity as a representative  
55 of the school before the beginning date of the semester during  
56 which the extracurricular activity in which the student wishes to  
57 participate is offered; and

58 (v) Comply with the same physical examination,  
59 immunization, insurance, age and semester eligibility requirements  
60 as public school students participating in the extracurricular  
61 activity.

62 (b) A student who transfers from a public school to a  
63 homeschool may not participate on interscholastic extracurricular  
64 teams until twelve (12) months after the date of transfer.

65 (c) Transportation of a student being educated in a  
66 homeschool to a public school to participate in interscholastic  
67 extracurricular activities is the responsibility of the parent,  
68 guardian or student. The student may use the same transportation  
69 as public school students so long as additional expenses are not  
70 incurred by the school district.

71 (d) In selecting the members of an interscholastic  
72 extracurricular team, a public school may not discriminate against  
73 a student being educated in a homeschool who is eligible to  
74 participate in an interscholastic extracurricular activity under  
75 this section.



76 (e) A public school team or group may not be impeded  
77 from competing against any other public school team or group  
78 solely because the public school team or group includes students  
79 being educated in a homeschool who are eligible to participate in  
80 an interscholastic extracurricular activity under this section.

81 (4) Participation in an interscholastic extracurricular  
82 activity is a privilege and not a right. Nothing in this act may  
83 be interpreted to create a cause of action on behalf of a student  
84 against a public school or public school district official or  
85 against an interscholastic extracurricular activities association.

86 **SECTION 2.** (1) For purposes of this section, the terms  
87 "homeschool," "interscholastic extracurricular activity" and  
88 "extracurricular activity" have the meanings respectively ascribed  
89 to those terms in Section 1 of this act.

90 (2) Students being educated in a homeschool may elect to  
91 organize and form interscholastic extracurricular activity teams  
92 comprised of students from different families or households who  
93 are being educated in a homeschool for the purpose of engaging in  
94 academic and athletic extracurricular competitions with public  
95 schools.

96 (3) Interscholastic extracurricular activity teams comprised  
97 solely of students being educated in homeschools must be allowed  
98 to participate in local, regional and state competitions against  
99 public school teams if the following conditions are met:



100           (a) The homeschool team complies with all rules and  
101 regulations governing participation in the specific  
102 interscholastic extracurricular activity which are required of  
103 public school teams;

104           (b) The members of the homeschool team are required to  
105 adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibility,  
106 performance and code of conduct as public school participants in  
107 the extracurricular activity;

108           (c) The members of the homeschool team are required to  
109 adhere to the same academic standards and grade requirements as  
110 other participants; and

111           (d) The members of the homeschool team comply with the  
112 same physical examination, immunization, insurance, age and  
113 semester eligibility requirements as public school students  
114 participating in the extracurricular activity.

115           (3) An interscholastic extracurricular activity team  
116 comprised solely of students being educated in homeschools shall  
117 express its intent to participate in a public school  
118 extracurricular activity competition to the association  
119 responsible for the governance of academic and athletic  
120 extracurricular competitions among secondary schools throughout  
121 the state. The association shall adopt such rules and regulations  
122 as may be necessary to facilitate the participation of homeschool  
123 student teams in public school extracurricular activity  
124 competitions, which rules must include the date by which notice of



125 a homeschool team's intent to participate in a particular  
126 extracurricular activity must be received by the association in  
127 order for the homeschool team to be included in the competition  
128 schedule.

129       **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
130 and after July 1, 2022.

