

By: Senator(s) DeBar

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2562

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE TIM TEBOW ACT TO AUTHORIZE HOMESCHOOLED  
2 STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR  
3 ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY OR ENGAGED IN BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL TO  
4 WHICH THE STUDENT WOULD BE ASSIGNED ACCORDING TO DISTRICT SCHOOL  
5 BOARD ATTENDANCE POLICIES TO PROVIDE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCH  
6 STUDENTS; TO PROVIDE THAT TRANSPORTATION OF THE STUDENT TO THE  
7 PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT, GUARDIAN  
8 OR STUDENT; TO PROHIBIT A PUBLIC SCHOOL FROM DISCRIMINATING  
9 AGAINST SUCH STUDENT IN THE SELECTION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC  
10 EXTRACURRICULAR TEAM MEMBERS; TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH PARTICIPATION  
11 SHALL BE CONSIDERED A PRIVILEGE AND NOT A RIGHT AND THAT NOTHING  
12 IN THE ACT SHALL BE INTERPRETED TO CREATE A CAUSE OF ACTION; TO  
13 CREATE THE "HOMESCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY FUND" AS A SPECIAL  
14 FUND WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE THAT DISTRICTS  
15 MAY RECEIVE \$2,250.00 PER HOMESCHOOL STUDENT THAT PARTICIPATED IN  
16 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN THE PRIOR YEAR; TO REQUIRE THE  
17 DEPARTMENT TO REPORT DISBURSEMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF THE STATE  
18 AUDITOR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

20 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this section, unless the context  
21 requires otherwise:

22 (a) "Homeschool" means a legitimate home instruction  
23 program as provided under Section 37-13-91(3)(c).

24 (b) "Interscholastic extracurricular activity" means  
25 any school-authorized sport or activity sanctioned by the  
26 Mississippi High School Activity Association.



27 (c) "Appropriate documentation" for purposes of this  
28 section means:

29 (i) The results of a nationally recognized  
30 standardized test or its equivalence determined by the Mississippi  
31 Department of Education;

32 (ii) A portfolio of the previous year's school  
33 work demonstrating the student's proficiency appropriate for his  
34 or her grade level at the discretion of the school principal or  
35 counselor staff; or

36 (iii) If the student was enrolled in a public,  
37 private, parochial or charter school during the immediately  
38 preceding school year, the student's eligibility is based on his  
39 or her academic success at that school.

40 (2) (a) A student enrolled in a homeschool shall be  
41 eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular  
42 activities sponsored by or engaged in by the public school to  
43 which the student would be assigned according to district school  
44 board attendance policies; provided, that homeschooled students  
45 who leave a public school during the school year are subject to  
46 the same transfer protocols that apply to public-to-public  
47 transfers. A student eligible under this section who is selected  
48 to participate in extracurricular activities shall:

49 (i) Pay any participation or activity fee in an  
50 amount equal to the fee charged to public school participants;



51 (ii) Adhere to the same standards of behavior,  
52 responsibility, performance and code of conduct as any other  
53 participants in the extracurricular activity;

54 (iii) Adhere to the same academic standards as  
55 other participants, with those standards confirmed by appropriate  
56 documentation provided by the student to the public school  
57 providing the extracurricular activity in which the student will  
58 participate. A parent or person standing in parental relation to  
59 a homeschooled student participating in the extracurricular  
60 activity must periodically, in accordance with the school's  
61 grading calendar, provide written verification to the school  
62 indicating that the student is receiving a passing grade in each  
63 course or subject being taught;

64 (iv) Register with the school his or her intent to  
65 participate in extracurricular activity as a representative of the  
66 school before the beginning date of the semester for the activity  
67 in which he or she wishes to participate; and

68 (v) Comply with the same physical examination,  
69 immunization, insurance, age and semester eligibility requirements  
70 as other students participating in the activity.

71 (b) Transportation of the student to the public school  
72 to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities shall  
73 be the responsibility of the parent, guardian or student. The  
74 student may use the same transportation as other students as long  
75 as additional expenses are not incurred by the district.



76 (c) A public school shall not discriminate against a  
77 student eligible under this section in the selection of  
78 interscholastic extracurricular team members.

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

85 (4) With respect to a homeschooled student's education  
86 program, nothing in this section shall be construed to permit an  
87 agency of the state, a public school district or any other  
88 governmental body to exercise control, regulatory authority or  
89 supervision over a homeschooled student or parent or person  
90 standing in parental relation to a homeschooled student beyond the  
91 control, regulatory or supervision required to participate in  
92 league activity.

93 (5) School districts may apply to the Mississippi Department  
94 of Education for additional funding to cover the cost of any  
95 homeschooled students participating in extracurricular activities.

96 (6) Application for funds must be made to the Mississippi  
97 Department of Education on or before January 30 of each school  
98 year.

99 (7) The application must include the number of homeschool  
100 students participating in extracurricular activities in the prior



101 school year, the activities in which the homeschool student  
102 participated and such other information as required by the  
103 Mississippi Department of Education.

104 (8) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to  
105 be designated the "Homeschool Extracurricular Activity Fund" to be  
106 administered by the Department of Education.

107 (9) Districts applying for funds under this section shall  
108 receive Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$2,250.00) per  
109 homeschool student that participated in extracurricular activities  
110 in the prior year. Distributions shall be made by the Department  
111 of Education from the "Homeschool Extracurricular Activity Fund."  
112 The Department of Education shall allocate funds to the Homeschool  
113 Extracurricular Activity Fund as needed to ensure the fund never  
114 exhausts.

115 (10) Nothing in this section shall be construed as to  
116 require a school district to request funding.

117 (11) The Department of Education shall report disbursements  
118 made pursuant to this section to the Office of the State Auditor,  
119 on a form proscribed by the Office of the State Auditor, on July  
120 1, 2024 and every two (2) years thereafter.

121 (12) This section may be known and be cited as the "Tim  
122 Tebow Act."

123 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
124 and after July 1, 2024.

