

By: Representative Arnold

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 118

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN
 2 ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOL
 3 DISTRICTS; TO REQUIRE THOSE STUDENTS TO ADHERE TO THE SAME RULES
 4 AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETIC AND
 5 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES BY STUDENTS IN THE LOCAL SCHOOL
 6 DISTRICT; TO PROHIBIT A LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD FROM IMPOSING ANY
 7 REQUIREMENT UPON A HOMESCHOOLED STUDENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN AN
 8 ATHLETIC OR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY WHICH IS NOT IMPOSED UPON
 9 FULL-TIME STUDENTS OF THE LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO
 10 AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE RULES AND
 11 REGULATIONS GOVERNING POLICIES IMPLEMENTED BY LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS
 12 PERMITTING THE PARTICIPATION OF HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS IN ATHLETIC
 13 AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** (1) A student who is being educated in a
 16 legitimate home instruction program, as defined under the
 17 Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law (Section 37-13-91),
 18 may participate in any athletic and extracurricular activities
 19 available to students in the homeschooled student's grade in the
 20 local school of the school district where that student resides.
 21 Upon the request of the homeschooled student's parent, guardian or
 22 legal custodian, the local school board shall register the student
 23 in a public school for purposes of participating in an athletic or



24 extracurricular activity or activities. The homeschooled student
25 must reside within the attendance boundaries of the school in
26 which the student is seeking registration and must submit the
27 request for registration before the deadline established by the
28 local district for participation in the athletic or
29 extracurricular activity in the following school year. As used in
30 this section, the term "extracurricular" means any
31 school-authorized or education-related activity occurring during
32 or outside the regular instructional school day including, but not
33 limited to, academic teams, athletics, art, band, choir, honor
34 societies, music and theatre.

35 (2) A homeschooled student participating in any athletic or
36 extracurricular activity and his or her parents must adhere to the
37 same rules and regulations adopted by the local school board
38 governing participation in that activity by students in the local
39 school. Each local school board shall adopt a policy governing
40 homeschooled student participation in such extracurricular
41 activities, which policy must conform to any rules and regulations
42 adopted by the State Board of Education under subsection (3) of
43 this section. However, a local school board may not impose any
44 requirements on a homeschooled student auditioning for or
45 participating in extracurricular activities which are not imposed
46 on full-time students of the local public school district. When
47 selection to participate in an athletic or extracurricular
48 activity at a local public school is made on a competitive basis,



49 a homeschooled student is eligible to try out for and participate
50 in the activity as authorized under this section.

51 (3) The State Board of Education may promulgate any rules
52 and regulations as it may deem necessary to promote consistency of
53 policies implemented by local school boards throughout the state
54 permitting homeschooled students to participate in athletic and
55 extracurricular activities as provided under subsections (1) and
56 (2) of this section.

57 (4) This section may not be construed to require any
58 homeschooled student to register with a school district for
59 athletic and extracurricular activity purposes.

60 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
61 and after July 1, 2019.

