

By: Representative Roberson

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1617

1 AN ACT TO BE KNOWN AS THE "TIM TEBOW ACT"; TO DEFINE CERTAIN  
 2 TERMS; TO AUTHORIZE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A HOMESCHOOL TO  
 3 PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR  
 4 ACTIVITIES; TO PRESCRIBE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A STUDENT ENROLLED  
 5 IN A HOMESCHOOL TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR  
 6 ACTIVITIES; TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HOMESCHOOL STUDENT  
 7 SELECTION OR PARTICIPATION IN SUCH ACTIVITIES; TO PROVIDE THAT  
 8 PARTICIPATION IN AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY IS A PRIVILEGE AND  
 9 NOT A RIGHT; TO AUTHORIZE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO APPLY TO THE STATE  
 10 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO COVER THE COST  
 11 OF HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN EXTRACURRICULAR  
 12 ACTIVITIES; TO REQUIRE HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS TO PAY THE SAME  
 13 PARTICIPATION OR ACTIVITY FEES AS PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS; TO  
 14 CREATE THE HOMESCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY FUND WITHIN THE  
 15 STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS  
 16 TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN  
 17 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

24 (a) "Homeschool" means a legitimate home instruction  
 25 program as described under Section 37-13-91(3).



26 (b) "Interscholastic extracurricular activity" means  
27 any school-authorized sport or activity sanctioned by the  
28 Mississippi High School Activities Association.

29 (c) "Appropriate documentation" means:

30 (i) The results of a nationally recognized  
31 standardized test or its equivalent as determined by the State  
32 Department of Education;

33 (ii) A portfolio of the student's school work from  
34 the previous year demonstrating the student's proficiency  
35 appropriate for the student's grade level, as determined in the  
36 discretion of the school principal or counselor; or

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

41 (3) (a) A student enrolled in a homeschool is eligible to  
42 participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities  
43 sponsored or engaged in by the public school to which the student  
44 would be assigned according to the attendance policies adopted by  
45 the school board of the local school district. A homeschool  
46 student who leaves a public school during the school year is  
47 subject to the transfer protocols that apply to transfers from one  
48 (1) public school to another public school. A student who is  
49 eligible under this section and selected to participate in an  
50 extracurricular activity must:



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

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

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

66 (iv) Register with the school the student's intent  
67 to participate in the extracurricular activity as a representative  
68 of the school before the beginning date of the semester during  
69 which the extracurricular activity in which the student wishes to  
70 participate is offered; and

71 (v) Comply with the same physical examination,  
72 immunization, insurance, age and semester eligibility requirements  
73 as other students participating in the extracurricular activity.

74 (b) Transportation of a student being educated in a  
75 homeschool to a public school to participate in interscholastic



76 extracurricular activities is the responsibility of the parent,  
77 guardian or student. The student may use the same transportation  
78 as other students so long as additional expenses are not incurred  
79 by the school district.

80 (c) In selecting the members of an interscholastic  
81 extracurricular team, a public school shall not discriminate  
82 against a student being educated in a homeschool who is eligible  
83 to participate under this section.

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

90 (5) With respect to a homeschool student's education  
91 program, nothing in this section shall be construed to permit an  
92 agency of the state, a public school district or any other  
93 governmental body to exercise control, regulatory authority or  
94 supervision over a homeschool student or parent or person standing  
95 in parental relation to a homeschool student beyond the control,  
96 regulatory or supervision required to participate in league  
97 activity.

98 (6) (a) A school district may apply to the State Department  
99 of Education for additional funding to cover the cost of any  
100 homeschool students participating in extracurricular activities.



101 (b) An application for funds must be made to the  
102 department on or before a date established as the deadline by the  
103 department.

104 (c) The application must include the number of  
105 homeschool students participating in extracurricular activities in  
106 the prior school year, the activities in which the homeschool  
107 students participated, and such other information that is required  
108 by the department.

109 (7) (a) There is established a special fund within the  
110 State Department of Education to be known as the "Homeschool  
111 Extracurricular Activity Fund." A school district may apply for  
112 and receive funds under this subsection in the amount of Two  
113 Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$2,250.00) for each homeschool  
114 student who participated in extracurricular activities in the  
115 prior school year. The State Department of Education shall make  
116 distributions from the Homeschool Extracurricular Activity Fund.  
117 If at any time the fund is exhausted, disbursements must be made  
118 by the department from any other available funds that may be used,  
119 in the determination of the department, for such purposes.

120 (b) This subsection shall not be construed to require a  
121 school district to request funding.

122 (c) The State Department of Education shall report  
123 disbursements made pursuant to this subsection to the Office of  
124 the State Auditor, on a form created by the Office of the State  
125 Auditor, on July 1, 2026, and every two (2) years thereafter.



126           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
127 and after July 1, 2025.

