

By: Senator(s) DeBar

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2179

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
6 SUCH STUDENTS; TO PROVIDE THAT TRANSPORTATION OF THE STUDENT TO
7 THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT,
8 GUARDIAN OR STUDENT; TO PROHIBIT A PUBLIC SCHOOL FROM
9 DISCRIMINATING AGAINST SUCH STUDENT IN THE SELECTION OF
10 INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR TEAM MEMBERS; TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH
11 PARTICIPATION SHALL BE CONSIDERED A PRIVILEGE AND NOT A RIGHT, AND
12 THAT NOTHING IN THE ACT SHALL BE INTERPRETED TO CREATE A CAUSE OF
13 ACTION; TO CREATE THE "HOMESCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY FUND"
14 AS A SPECIAL FUND WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE
15 THAT DISTRICTS MAY RECEIVE \$2,250.00 PER HOMESCHOOL STUDENT WHO
16 PARTICIPATED IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN THE PRIOR YEAR; TO
17 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT DISBURSEMENTS TO THE
18 OFFICE OF THE STATE 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 academic transcript from that
39 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 authority or supervision required to
92 participate in league activity.

93 (5) School districts may apply to the State Department of
94 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 Department of
97 Education on or before January 30 of each school year.

98 (7) The application must include the number of homeschool
99 students participating in extracurricular activities in the prior
100 school year, the activities in which the homeschool student

101 participated and such other information as required by the
102 Department of Education.

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

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

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

116 (11) The Department of Education shall report disbursements
117 made under this section to the Office of the State Auditor, on a
118 form prescribed by the Office of the State Auditor, on July 1,
119 2025, and every two (2) years thereafter.

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

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