



Bill Number: House Bill 461

Bill Title: High School Athletics

Bill Sponsor: Representative Llorente

Effective Date: July 1, 2007

DOE Contact: Kate Kemker, Chief, Bureau of Instruction and Innovation, (850) 245-9868

Executive Summary:

This bill requires the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) to facilitate a one-year program in which grade 9-12 students in member schools who participate in football, baseball, or weightlifting governed by FHSAA will be subjected to random testing for the use of anabolic steroids.

The bill (1) requires the board of directors to establish certain minimum procedures for the conduct of the program, and (2) requires each student who participates in interscholastic athletics and his/her parent, as a prerequisite for athletic eligibility, to sign a form consenting to penalties and procedures for challenging a positive finding and procedures for appealing a prescribed penalty. Florida High School Athletic Association must contract with an agency to administer the testing program and the agency's laboratory must be accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency. The bill provides for a minimum of 1 percent of total students who participate in football, baseball, or weightlifting to be randomly selected to undergo a test in each year of the program, and provides a selection process. House Bill 463 requires records relating to these drug tests to be disclosed only to the organization, the student, the student's parent, the administration of the student's school, and the administration of any school to which the student may transfer during the period of suspension.

The bill allows the school to challenge the finding and requires the school to challenge it at the student's request. The bill further allows the school to appeal the period of ineligibility to the organization's commissioner and requires the school to challenge it at the student's request. The bill allows the school to appeal to the board of directors should the school or student be dissatisfied with the decision of the commissioner.

For a student who tests positive, the bill mandates a drug education program conducted by the student's school, the student's school district, or a third-party organization contracted by the school or school district.

The bill provides for immunity from civil liability under the program for the defense.

The bill requires the organization to report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the results of the program no later than October 1, 2008.

General Implementation Timeline:

- The results of the program must be reported to the President of Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1, 2008.
- Section 1006.20(10), F.S., is repealed on October 2, 2008, unless saved from repeal by an act of the legislature.