



HOUSE BILL 276: Adjust High School Athletics Conf./Onslow.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 11, 2021
Introduced by:	Rep. Shepard	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: House Bill 276 would provide the option for certain high schools in Onslow County to participate in a single athletic conference.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-12(23) authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules governing interscholastic athletic activities conducted by local boards of education, including eligibility for student participation. The statute also provides that the State Board may authorize a designated organization to apply and enforce the Board's rules governing participation in interscholastic athletic activities at the high school level.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 276 applies only to Onslow County and provides that if the State Board of Education authorizes a designated organization to apply and enforce the Board's rules, the designated organization must allow the creation of a conference of qualifying high schools. The conference would be afforded all rights and privileges granted to other conferences within the designated organization if all of the following are met:

- There are at least six qualifying high schools within a geographic region. Qualifying high school is defined as a high school with an average daily membership of 800 students or more.
- The conference consists of only qualifying high schools.
- The conference is open to all qualifying high schools in the geographic region.
- Participation in the conference is optional.

For a conference to be created under this act, the designated organization would have to be notified at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Schools joining the conference by that date may withdraw, without penalty, from any scheduling contracts previously entered into for the 2021-2022 season.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: The General Assembly passed similar legislation in the 2005-2006 Session of the General Assembly applicable to Dare, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties in S.L. 2006-23. That legislation was limited to the 2006-2007 school year.

**This summary was substantially contributed to by Nicholas Giddings, Staff Attorney.*

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