

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 470

BY SENATORS ROSE, THORNE, AND HELTON

[Reported March 31, 2025, from the Committee on
Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §18-2-25f, relating to allowing a student, coach, and athletic trainer to compete
3 in non-school-sponsored events or participate on non-school-sponsored competitive
4 teams; allowing an interscholastic coach to prohibit a player from missing a team-related
5 activity due to that player's competing in a non-school-sponsored event or participating on
6 a non-school-sponsored competitive team; and providing that the requirements of the
7 interscholastic team shall be prioritized leading up to and during post season play.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-25f. Participation in non-school athletic activities.

1 The Legislature hereby finds that:

2 (1) While participation in school-sponsored extracurricular sports is a voluntary
3 opportunity, no student-athlete, coach, or athletic trainer should be deprived of additional
4 opportunities to advance or showcase their skills purely because they are associated with a
5 school sports team;

6 (2) Prohibiting a student-athlete, coach, or athletic trainer from participating in non-school-
7 sponsored events or activities as a condition for association with a school-sponsored team is
8 unlawfully arbitrary and is not rationally related to a state purpose; and

9 (3) A county board of education and the West Virginia Secondary School Activities
10 Commission may not restrict nor prohibit a student, coach, or athletic trainer from competing in
11 non-school-sponsored events or participating on non-school-sponsored competitive teams as a
12 condition of being associated with a school-sponsored extracurricular activity or sport: *Provided,*

13 That:

14 (A) Nothing in this subdivision prevents an interscholastic coach from restricting or
15 prohibiting a player on the team he or she is coaching from missing a team related activity, such

- 16 as, but not limited to, a game or practice, due to that player's competing in a non-school-
17 sponsored event or participating on a non-school-sponsored competitive team; and
18 (B) Leading up to and during post season play the requirements of the interscholastic team
19 as determined by the coach shall be prioritized.