

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 21**

By Senator Rose

[Introduced January 14, 2026; referred  
to 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 students, coaching staff, and athletic trainers to  
3 participate in non-school athletic activities.

*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 school  
5 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.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow students, coaching staff, and athletic trainers to participate in non-school athletic activities.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.