

**Introduced by Senator Mendoza**

February 19, 2016

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An act to amend Section 35179 of the Education Code, relating to interscholastic athletics.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1420, as introduced, Mendoza. Interscholastic athletics.

Existing law provides that each school district governing board has general control of, and responsibility for, all aspects of the interscholastic athletic policies, programs, and activities in its district, as specified. Existing law authorizes school district governing boards to enter into associations or consortia with other school district governing boards for the purpose of governing regional or statewide interscholastic athletic programs, as specified. Existing law prohibits voluntary interscholastic athletic associations from discriminating against, or denying the benefits of any program to, any person on the basis of specified personal characteristics. Existing law also prohibits voluntary interscholastic athletic associations from denying a school from participation in interscholastic athletic activities because of the religious tenets of the school.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     SECTION 1. Section 35179 of the Education Code is amended  
2     to read:

1 35179. (a) Each school district governing board shall have  
2 general control of, and be responsible for, all aspects of the  
3 interscholastic athletic policies, programs, and activities in its  
4 district, including, but not *necessarily* limited to, eligibility, season  
5 of sport, number of sports, personnel, and sports facilities. In  
6 addition, the *school district governing* board shall ensure that all  
7 interscholastic policies, programs, and activities in its district are  
8 in compliance with state and federal law.

9 (b) ~~Governing~~ *School district governing* boards may enter into  
10 associations or consortia with other *school district governing*  
11 boards for the purpose of governing regional or statewide  
12 interscholastic athletic programs by permitting the public schools  
13 under their jurisdictions to enter into a voluntary association with  
14 other schools for the purpose of enacting and enforcing rules  
15 relating to eligibility for, and participation in, interscholastic  
16 athletic programs among and between schools.

17 (c) Each *school district* governing board, or its designee, shall  
18 represent the individual schools located within its jurisdiction in  
19 any voluntary association of schools formed or maintained pursuant  
20 to this section.

21 (d) No voluntary interscholastic athletic association, of which  
22 any public school is a member, shall discriminate against, or deny  
23 the benefits of any program to, any person on any basis prohibited  
24 by Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 200) of Part ~~4~~. *1 of*  
25 *Division 1 of Title 1*.

26 (e) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of~~ law, no voluntary  
27 interscholastic athletic association shall deny a school from  
28 participating in interscholastic athletic activities because of the  
29 religious tenets of the school, ~~regardless~~ *irrespective* of whether  
30 that school is directly controlled by a religious organization.

31 (f) Interscholastic athletics is defined as those policies, programs,  
32 and activities that are formulated or executed in conjunction with,  
33 or in contemplation of, athletic contests between two or more  
34 schools, either public or private.