

ARIZONA STATE SENATE

RESEARCH STAFF



TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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DATE: February 17, 2015

SUBJECT: Strike everything amendment to S.B. 1219, relating to extracurricular and athletic activities; accessories

Purpose

Prohibits public schools and interscholastic athletic associations from disallowing a student from wearing religious or cultural accessories or hair pieces while participating in extracurricular or athletic activities.

Background

School districts are required to prescribe and enforce policies and procedures relating to the health and safety of all pupils participating in district sponsored practice sessions or games or other interscholastic activities (A.R.S. § 15-341). When establishing or enforcing rules related to a pupil's participation in extracurricular school activities, school districts are required to consider the cultural traditions of pupils. If the rules prohibit a student from participating because of the student's cultural traditions, statute allows the school district to adopt alternative rules to allow the student's participation but take into consideration the health and safety of those participating in the activities (A.R.S. § 15-347).

The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) is a voluntary association of approximately 267 public schools and private high schools in the state. The AIA establishes rules for extracurricular and athletic activities, registers officials and sanctions events.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Prohibits school districts, charter schools or an interscholastic athletic association that a school district or charter school is a member of prohibiting a student from wearing religious or cultural accessories or hair pieces while participating in extracurricular or athletic activities if it does not put the pupil or any other person participating in the activities health or safety in jeopardy.
2. Makes a conforming change.
3. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

CB/lc