



HR0895

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Thousands of young students participate in high
3 school athletic and academic competitions in Illinois each
4 school year; and

5 WHEREAS, High school athletic and academic contests are an
6 integral part of all communities across Illinois, both small
7 and large; and

8 WHEREAS, Public high school athletic and academic programs
9 belong to the taxpayers who fund their local school districts
10 across Illinois; and

11 WHEREAS, The health and safety of those students and
12 student athletes is of paramount importance; and

13 WHEREAS, School districts incur substantial costs to
14 enable students and student athletes to have broad athletic and
15 academic opportunities; and

16 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education provides general
17 oversight to school districts throughout Illinois; and

18 WHEREAS, The Illinois High School Athletic Association
19 (IHSA) provides oversight and administrative assistance to

1 school athletic programs and other extra-curricular programs;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The IHSA regulates, or has attempted to regulate,
4 access to high school athletic and academic events, including
5 access by members of local community media organizations; and

6 WHEREAS, The IHSA has entered into exclusive contracts with
7 vendors and suppliers to identify particular types of balls,
8 bats, and other athletic equipment and clothing that are
9 required to be used by IHSA members, in return for monetary
10 compensation to the IHSA; and

11 WHEREAS, The IHSA and other state athletic associations
12 have discussed a national venture to control access to and
13 distribution of video and other media coverage of publicly
14 funded high school athletic and academic competitions; and

15 WHEREAS, The IHSA has refused to make public exclusive
16 contracts with vendors and suppliers of "the official state
17 basketball" and similar contracts, including the income to IHSA
18 from such sponsorships; and

19 WHEREAS, Illinois high schools should be aware of the funds
20 generated by these contracts between the IHSA and vendors and
21 suppliers, as well as the revenues generated by the athletic

1 and academic contests in which Illinois's student athletes
2 participate; and

3 WHEREAS, With few exceptions, IHSA members may compete only
4 with other IHSA members in athletic and academic contests (IHSA
5 Constitution Section 2.050) resulting in virtual mandatory
6 membership in the IHSA for schools; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh
8 Circuit's final holding in the case of Wisconsin
9 Interscholastic Athletic Association, and American, Inc. v.
10 Gannett Co., Inc., and Wisconsin Newspaper Association.⁶⁵⁸
11 F.3d 614, is contrary to the public policy of the State of
12 Illinois, and it is incumbent upon this General Assembly to
13 enact legislation to properly re-state the policy of the State;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 the House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education be
18 encouraged to hold subject matter hearings on the issues
19 presented by this Resolution, the administration and funding of
20 high school sports, the safety of high school athletes, the
21 systems and protocols of the IHSA, the costs and income
22 associated with the administration of high school sports
23 (including any trademarks or copyrights claimed by the IHSA)

1 and the feasibility of statutorily transferring the duties and
2 functions of the IHSA to the Illinois State Board of Education;
3 the committee is further asked to examine the issues of
4 transparency and accountability in relation to high school
5 athletic and academic programs in Illinois; the Committee is
6 encouraged to make recommendations to the full House of
7 Representatives on these issues.