

**House Study Bill 551 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON WENDT)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to participation in extracurricular activities
- 2 by certain children.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.46, Code 2009, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **256.46 Rules for participation in extracurricular activities**  
4 **by certain children.**

5 1. The state board shall adopt rules that permit a child  
6 who does not meet the residence requirements for participation  
7 in extracurricular interscholastic contests or competitions  
8 sponsored or administered by an organization as defined in  
9 section 280.13 to participate in the contests or competitions  
10 immediately if the child is duly enrolled in a school, is  
11 otherwise eligible to participate, and meets one of the  
12 following circumstances or a similar circumstance: ~~the~~

13 a. ~~The~~ child has been adopted; ~~the.~~

14 b. ~~The~~ child is placed under foster or shelter care; ~~the.~~

15 c. ~~The~~ child is living with one of the child's parents as a  
16 result of divorce, separation, death, or other change in the  
17 child's parents' marital relationship, or pursuant to other  
18 court-ordered decree or order of custody; ~~the.~~

19 d. ~~The~~ child is a foreign exchange student, unless undue  
20 influence was exerted to place the child for primarily athletic  
21 purposes; ~~the.~~

22 e. ~~The~~ child has been placed in a juvenile correctional  
23 facility; ~~the.~~

24 f. ~~The~~ child is a ward of the court or the state; ~~the.~~

25 g. ~~The~~ child is a participant in a substance abuse or mental  
26 health program; ~~or the.~~

27 h. ~~The~~ child is enrolled in an accredited nonpublic high  
28 school because the child's district of residence has entered  
29 into a whole grade sharing agreement for the pupil's grade with  
30 another district.

31 2. The rules shall permit a child who is otherwise eligible  
32 to participate, but who does not meet one of the foregoing or  
33 similar circumstances relating to residence requirements, to  
34 participate at any level of competition other than the varsity  
35 level.

1     3. The rules shall permit a child to compete in an athletic  
2 contest or competition, whether or not the child is given a  
3 failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded, if  
4 the child moved into this state within twelve months prior to  
5 the start of the athletic season during which the contest or  
6 competition is held and the child is eligible to participate  
7 in an athletic contest or competition pursuant to subsection  
8 1, paragraph "a".

9     4. For purposes of this section and section 282.18,  
10 "varsity" means the highest level of competition offered by  
11 one school or school district against the highest level of  
12 competition offered by an opposing school or school district.

13                                 EXPLANATION

14     This bill allows a child to participate in an athletic  
15 contest or competition, whether or not the child receives a  
16 failing grade in a course for which credit is awarded, if the  
17 child is adopted and moved to Iowa within one year of the start  
18 of the athletic season during which the contest or competition  
19 is held.