

1 AN ACT relating to athletics.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 156.070 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The Kentucky Board of Education shall have the management and control of the
5 common schools and all programs operated in these schools, including
6 interscholastic athletics, the Kentucky School for the Deaf, the Kentucky School for
7 the Blind, and community education programs and services.

8 (2) The Kentucky Board of Education may designate an organization or agency to
9 manage interscholastic athletics in the common schools, provided that the rules,
10 regulations, and bylaws of any organization or agency so designated shall be
11 approved by the board, and provided further that any administrative hearing
12 conducted by the designated managing organization or agency shall be conducted in
13 accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.

14 (a) The state board or its designated agency shall assure through promulgation of
15 administrative regulations that if a secondary school sponsors or intends to
16 sponsor an athletic activity or sport that is similar to a sport for which
17 National Collegiate Athletic Association members offer an athletic
18 scholarship, the school shall sponsor the athletic activity or sport for which a
19 scholarship is offered. The administrative regulations shall specify which
20 athletic activities are similar to sports for which National Collegiate Athletic
21 Association members offer scholarships.

22 (b) Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, the state board shall require any
23 agency or organization designated by the state board to manage interscholastic
24 athletics to adopt bylaws that establish as members of the agency's or
25 organization's board of control one (1) representative of nonpublic member
26 schools who is elected by the nonpublic school members of the agency or
27 organization from regions one (1) through eight (8) and one (1) representative

1 of nonpublic member schools who is elected by the nonpublic member
2 schools of the agency or organization from regions nine (9) through sixteen
3 (16). The nonpublic school representatives on the board of control shall not be
4 from classification A1 or D1 schools. Following initial election of these
5 nonpublic school representatives to the agency's or organization's board of
6 control, terms of the nonpublic school representatives shall be staggered so
7 that only one (1) nonpublic school member is elected in each even-numbered
8 year.

9 (c) The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage
10 interscholastic athletics shall not promulgate rules, administrative regulations,
11 or bylaws that prohibit pupils in grades seven (7) to eight (8) from
12 participating in any high school sports except for high school varsity soccer
13 and football, or from participating on more than one (1) school-sponsored
14 team at the same time in the same sport. The Kentucky Board of Education, or
15 an agency designated by the board to manage interscholastic athletics, may
16 promulgate administrative regulations restricting, limiting, or prohibiting
17 participation in high school varsity soccer and football for students who have
18 not successfully completed the eighth grade.

19 (d) 1. The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage
20 interscholastic athletics shall allow a member school's team or students
21 to play against students of a non-member at-home private school, or a
22 team of students from non-member at-home private schools, if the non-
23 member at-home private schools and students comply with this
24 subsection.

25 2. A non-member at-home private school's team and students shall comply
26 with the rules for student athletes, including rules concerning:

27 a. Age;

- 1 b. School semesters;
- 2 c. Scholarships;
- 3 d. Physical exams;
- 4 e. Foreign student eligibility; and
- 5 f. Amateurs.
- 6 3. A coach of a non-member at-home private school's team shall comply
- 7 with the rules concerning certification of member school coaches as
- 8 required by the state board or any agency designated by the state board
- 9 to manage interscholastic athletics.
- 10 4. This subsection shall not allow a non-member at-home private school's
- 11 team to participate in a sanctioned:
- 12 a. Conference;
- 13 b. Conference tournament;
- 14 c. District tournament;
- 15 d. Regional tournament; or
- 16 e. State tournament or event.
- 17 5. This subsection does not allow eligibility for a recognition, award, or
- 18 championship sponsored by the state board or any agency designated by
- 19 the state board to manage interscholastic athletics.
- 20 6. A non-member at-home private school's team or students may
- 21 participate in interscholastic athletics permitted, offered, or sponsored by
- 22 the state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage
- 23 interscholastic athletics.
- 24 (e) Every local board of education shall require an annual medical examination
- 25 performed and signed by a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice
- 26 registered nurse, or chiropractor, if performed within the professional's scope
- 27 of practice, for each student seeking eligibility to participate in any school

1 athletic activity or sport. The Kentucky Board of Education or any
2 organization or agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic
3 athletics shall not promulgate administrative regulations or adopt any policies
4 or bylaws that are contrary to the provisions of this paragraph.

5 (f) Any student who turns nineteen (19) years of age prior to August 1 shall not
6 be eligible for high school athletics in Kentucky. Any student who turns
7 nineteen (19) years of age on or after August 1 shall remain eligible for that
8 school year only. An exception to the provisions of this paragraph shall be
9 made, and the student shall be eligible for high school athletics in Kentucky if
10 the student:

- 11 1. Qualified for exceptional children services and had an individual
12 education program developed by an admissions and release committee
13 (ARC) while the student was enrolled in the primary school program;
- 14 2. Was retained in the primary school program because of an ARC
15 committee recommendation; and
- 16 3. Has not completed four (4) consecutive years or eight (8) consecutive
17 semesters of eligibility following initial promotion from grade eight (8)
18 to grade nine (9).

19 (g) The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage
20 interscholastic athletics shall promulgate administrative regulations or
21 bylaws that provide that:

22 1. A member school shall designate all athletic teams, activities, and
23 sports as one (1) of the following categories as:

24 a. "Boys";

25 b. "Coed"; or

26 b. "Girls";

27 2. a. An athletic activity or sport designated as "girls" shall not be

1 open to members of the male sex;

2 b. Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the
3 eligibility of any student to participate in an athletic activity or
4 sport designated as "boys" or "coed"; and

5 3. Neither the state board, nor any agency designated by the state board
6 to manage interscholastic athletics, nor any school district, nor any
7 member school shall entertain a complaint, open an investigation, or
8 take any other adverse action against a school for maintaining
9 separate interscholastic or intramural athletic teams, activities, or
10 sports for students of the female sex.

- 11 (h) 1. The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage
12 interscholastic athletics shall promulgate administrative regulations that
13 permit a school district to employ or assign nonteaching or noncertified
14 personnel or personnel without postsecondary education credit hours to
15 serve in a coaching position. The administrative regulations shall give
16 preference to the hiring or assignment of certified personnel in coaching
17 positions.
- 18 2. A person employed in a coaching position shall be a high school
19 graduate and at least twenty-one (21) years of age and shall submit to a
20 criminal background check in accordance with KRS 160.380.
- 21 3. The administrative regulations shall specify post-hire requirements for
22 persons employed in coaching positions.
- 23 4. The regulations shall permit a predetermined number of hours of
24 professional development training approved by the state board or its
25 designated agency to be used in lieu of postsecondary education credit
26 hour requirements.
- 27 5. A local school board may specify post-hire requirements for personnel

1 employed in coaching positions in addition to those specified in
2 subparagraph 3. of this paragraph.

3 (3) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education is hereby authorized to lease from the State
4 Property and Buildings Commission, or others, whether public or private, any
5 lands, buildings, structures, installations, and facilities suitable for use in
6 establishing and furthering television and related facilities as an aid or
7 supplement to classroom instruction, throughout the Commonwealth, and for
8 incidental use in any other proper public functions. The lease may be for any
9 initial term commencing with the date of the lease and ending with the next
10 ensuing June 30, which is the close of the then-current fiscal biennium of the
11 Commonwealth, with exclusive options in favor of the board to renew the
12 same for successive ensuing bienniums, July 1 in each even year to June 30 in
13 the next ensuing even year; and the rentals may be fixed at the sums in each
14 biennium, if renewed, sufficient to enable the State Property and Buildings
15 Commission to pay therefrom the maturing principal of and interest on, and
16 provide reserves for, any revenue bonds which the State Property and
17 Buildings Commission may determine to be necessary and sufficient, in
18 agreement with the board, to provide the cost of acquiring the television and
19 related facilities, with appurtenances, and costs as may be incident to the
20 issuance of the bonds.

21 (b) Each option of the Kentucky Board of Education to renew the lease for a
22 succeeding biennial term may be exercised at any time after the adjournment
23 of the session of the General Assembly at which appropriations shall have
24 been made for the operation of the state government for such succeeding
25 biennial term, by notifying the State Property and Buildings Commission in
26 writing, signed by the chief state school officer, and delivered to the secretary
27 of the Finance and Administration Cabinet as a member of the commission.

1 The option shall be deemed automatically exercised, and the lease
2 automatically renewed for the succeeding biennium, effective on the first day
3 thereof, unless a written notice of the board's election not to renew shall have
4 been delivered in the office of the secretary of the Finance and Administration
5 Cabinet before the close of business on the last working day in April
6 immediately preceding the beginning of the succeeding biennium.

7 (c) The Kentucky Board of Education shall not itself operate leased television
8 facilities, or undertake the preparation of the educational presentations or
9 films to be transmitted thereby, but may enter into one (1) or more contracts to
10 provide therefor, with any public agency and instrumentality of the
11 Commonwealth having, or able to provide, a staff with proper technical
12 qualifications, upon which agency and instrumentality the board, through the
13 chief state school officer and the Department of Education, is represented in
14 such manner as to coordinate matters of curriculum with the curricula
15 prescribed for the public schools of the Commonwealth. Any contract for the
16 operation of the leased television or related facilities may permit limited and
17 special uses of the television or related facilities for other programs in the
18 public interest, subject to the reasonable terms and conditions as the board and
19 the operating agency and instrumentality may agree upon; but any contract
20 shall affirmatively forbid the use of the television or related facilities, at any
21 time or in any manner, in the dissemination of political propaganda or in
22 furtherance of the interest of any political party or candidate for public office,
23 or for commercial advertising. No lease between the board and the State
24 Property and Buildings Commission shall bind the board to pay rentals for
25 more than one (1) fiscal biennium at a time, subject to the aforesaid renewal
26 options. The board may receive and may apply to rental payments under any
27 lease and to the cost of providing for the operation of the television or related

1 facilities not only appropriations which may be made to it from state funds,
2 from time to time, but also contributions, gifts, matching funds, devises, and
3 bequests from any source, whether federal or state, and whether public or
4 private, so long as the same are not conditioned upon any improper use of the
5 television or related facilities in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of
6 this subsection.

7 (4) The state board may, on the recommendation and with the advice of the chief state
8 school officer, prescribe, print, publish, and distribute at public expense such
9 administrative regulations, courses of study, curriculums, bulletins, programs,
10 outlines, reports, and placards as each deems necessary for the efficient
11 management, control, and operation of the schools and programs under its
12 jurisdiction. All administrative regulations published or distributed by the board
13 shall be enclosed in a booklet or binder on which the words "informational copy"
14 shall be clearly stamped or printed.

15 (5) Upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer or his designee, the state
16 board shall establish policy or act on all matters relating to programs, services,
17 publications, capital construction and facility renovation, equipment, litigation,
18 contracts, budgets, and all other matters which are the administrative responsibility
19 of the Department of Education.

20 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO
21 READ AS FOLLOWS:

22 (1) Any student:

23 (a) Who is deprived of an athletic opportunity or suffers any direct or indirect
24 harm; or

25 (b) Who is subject to retaliation or other adverse action by a school, the state
26 board, or agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic
27 athletics;

1 as a result of a violation of an administrative regulation or bylaw promulgated in
2 accordance with subsection (2)(g) of Section 1 of this Act shall have a private
3 cause of action for injunctive relief, monetary damages, and any other relief
4 available under law against the school in violation.

5 (2) A civil action under this section must be initiated within two (2) years after the
6 date the harm occurred.

7 (3) For the purposes of this section, monetary damages shall include any
8 psychological, emotional, and physical harm suffered, reasonable attorney's fees
9 and costs, and any other appropriate relief.

10 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO
11 READ AS FOLLOWS:

12 (1) (a) A public postsecondary education institution or private postsecondary
13 education institution that is a member of a national intercollegiate athletic
14 association shall designate all intercollegiate and intramural athletic teams,
15 activities, sports, and events that are sponsored or authorized by the
16 institution as one (1) of the following categories:

17 1. "Mens";

18 2. "Coed"; or

19 2. "Womens."

20 (b) 1. A public postsecondary education institution or private postsecondary
21 education institution that is a member of a national intercollegiate
22 athletic association shall prohibit a member of the male sex from
23 competing in any intercollegiate or intramural athletic team, activity,
24 sport, or event designated as "womens."

25 2. Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the eligibility of
26 any student to participate in an athletic activity or sport designated as
27 "mens" or "coed."

1 (2) A government entity, licensing or accrediting organization, or athletic association
2 or organization shall not entertain a complaint, open an investigation, or take
3 any other adverse action against a postsecondary education institution for
4 maintaining a separate interscholastic or intramural athletic team, activity, sport,
5 or event for members of the female sex.

6 (3) Any student who:

7 (a) Is deprived of an athletic opportunity or suffers any direct or indirect harm
8 as a result of a violation of subsection (1) of this section; or

9 (b) Is subject to retaliation or other adverse action by a postsecondary
10 institution as a result of reporting a violation of subsection (1) of this
11 section;

12 shall have a private cause of action for injunctive relief, damages, and any other
13 relief available under law against the postsecondary institution in violation.

14 (4) A civil action under this section must be initiated within two (2) years after the
15 harm occurred.

16 (5) For the purposes of this section, monetary damages shall include any
17 psychological, emotional, and physical harm suffered, reasonable attorney's fees
18 and costs, and any other appropriate relief.

19 ➔Section 4. This Act may be cited as the "Save Women's Sports Act."