

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 363

BY REPRESENTATIVES JACOB LANDRY, AMEDEE, EDMONSTON, FREIBERG,
MARTINEZ, SCHLEGEL, AND TAYLOR

STUDENTS: Authorizes students enrolled in virtual schools to participate in public school activities

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:176.2, relative to students enrolled in virtual schools; to
3 authorize students enrolled in virtual schools to participate in public school activities
4 at the public school they would otherwise attend based on their residence; to specify
5 that such activities include extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics; and
6 to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:176.2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 §176.2. Extracurricular activities; interscholastic athletics; participation by home
10 study students and virtual school students

11 A. A public school shall not disqualify a student from participating in
12 extracurricular activities or interscholastic athletics solely because the student is
13 enrolled in an approved home study ~~program, so long as~~ program or virtual school
14 if the student lives in the attendance zone of the public school.

15 (1) A student who is enrolled in an approved home study program or virtual
16 school shall try out or apply for extracurricular activities or interscholastic athletics
17 at the public school in the same manner, time, and place as the students who attend
18 the public school.

1 (2) After the try out or application, should the ~~approved home study~~ student
 2 meet the qualifications for an extracurricular activities club or an interscholastic
 3 athletics team, the ~~approved home study~~ student shall be required to maintain all
 4 requirements for participation that a ~~public school~~ student enrolled in that public
 5 school would have to meet in order to participate in the extracurricular activity or the
 6 interscholastic athletics activity, including but not limited to maintaining a minimum
 7 grade point average and complying with disciplinary standards. Failure to meet the
 8 requirements with respect to a minimum grade point average or failure to adhere to
 9 the disciplinary standards shall be grounds for the school to remove the ~~approved~~
 10 ~~home study~~ student from participation in the extracurricular activities club or the
 11 interscholastic athletics team.

12 B. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no public school may be
 13 a member of, or participate in any competition sponsored by, any interscholastic
 14 extracurricular athletic association or organization that denies eligibility to a student
 15 solely on the basis of the student's enrollment in an approved home study program
 16 or virtual school.

17 C. For purposes of this Section:

18 (1) "Approved home study program" means a home study program approved
 19 as provided for in R.S. 17:236.1.

20 (2) "Virtual school" shall be defined as in R.S. 17:236.3.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 363 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Jacob Landry

Abstract: Authorizes virtual school students to participate in public school activities at the public school they would otherwise attend based on their residence.

Present law prohibits a public school from disqualifying a student who lives in the school's attendance zone from participating in extracurricular activities or interscholastic athletics solely because he is enrolled in an approved home study program as defined by present law (R.S. 17:236.1). Further subjects such students to the same requirements that apply to those who attend the school relative to trying out for participation, maintaining a minimum grade point average, and complying with disciplinary standards.

Proposed law retains present law and extends allowance for participation to include virtual school students as defined by present law (R.S. 17:236.3), which includes charter schools.

Present law prohibits a public school from being a member of, or participating in any competition sponsored by, any interscholastic extracurricular athletic association or organization that denies eligibility to a student solely on the basis of his enrollment in an approved home study program. Proposed law retains present law and extends prohibition on certain affiliations with an association or organization that denies eligibility to a student solely on the basis of his enrollment in a virtual school.

(Amends R.S. 17:176.2)