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## DIGEST

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Henry

HB No. 871

**Abstract:** Provides eligibility for certain home study students to participate in public school interscholastic extracurricular activities in accordance with specified guidelines, procedures, and limitations.

Proposed law provides (beginning with the 2008-2009 school year and continuing thereafter) that a student participating in a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) as provided by law (R.S. 17:236.1) shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities in public elementary and secondary schools in accordance with proposed law

Specifies that the home study student shall meet each of the following conditions:

- (1) The activity in which the student participates is provided by a public school that the student would otherwise be eligible to attend if enrolled in the public school system.
- (2) The student's participation in the activity is approved by the principal of the school providing the activity. Provides that a request to participate and the approval determination by the principal must be made in a timely manner.
- (3) At the time of participating in the activity, the student and the home study program is in full compliance with all guidelines, standards, and requirements established by law for an approved home study program.
- (4) The student meets academic standards required of a public school student to participate in the activity. Provides that the means used to determine that the home study student meets such standard shall be agreed to by the principal of the school offering the activity, in consultation with the school system superintendent, and the parent or other person responsible by law for the school attendance of the student. Permits such means to include certain methods permitted by present law relative to the approval of a home study program by BESE. Requires that the agreement must occur prior to the home study student being permitted to participate in the activity.
- (5) The student meets all other standards and requirements applicable to a public school student to participate in the activity excluding requirements for enrollment and attendance at the public school.

Provides that a student who has been enrolled in a public or nonpublic school during the school

year in which the student begins home study or during the previous school year and who was determined ineligible to participate in one or more interscholastic extracurricular activities at such school for reasons related to student conduct or academic performance, or both, shall disclose such determination of ineligibility to the principal of the school providing the activity in which the student is requesting to participate. Specifies that such student shall not be granted permission to participate in a public school activity for which the student was previously determined ineligible until the time period, if any, established for such ineligibility has expired. Provides that if then granted permission to participate, the student shall not begin participation until a time period equal to that imposed for the previous ineligibility has passed and that such additional time period begins at the expiration of the previous time period.

Provides that no home study student shall be determined ineligible to participate in a interscholastic extracurricular activity at a public school based on the fact that the student previously attended the public school and participated in such interscholastic extracurricular activity.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:236.3)