A bill to be entitled

An act relating to athletics in public K-12 schools; amending s. 1006.20, F.S.; requiring the Florida High School Athletic Association to adopt bylaws authorizing certain coaches to support the welfare of a student by using personal funds to provide certain effects to the student; providing requirements for such bylaws; requiring the coach to report such use of personal funds to the association; providing that such use of personal funds is presumed not to be an impermissible benefit; providing exceptions; providing a limitation on the annual amount of personal funds a coach may use per athletic team per year, beginning on a specified date; authorizing other athletic associations to adopt similar bylaws; amending ss. 768.135, 1002.20, 1006.165, and 1012.468, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Present paragraphs (c) through (n) of subsection (2) of section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (d) through (o), respectively, and a new paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, to read:

1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

(2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS, POLICIES, OR GUIDELINES.—

(c) The FHSAA shall adopt bylaws that authorize a coach, employed by a school or school district, to support the welfare of a student he or she coaches by using personal funds to provide, in good faith, effects such as food, transportation, physical therapy, and rehabilitation services. The bylaws must require a parent to provide written consent before a coach may provide such support to a student. The bylaws must also define the term "athletic team" to include junior varsity and varsity levels, based on designation requirements of s. 1006.205(3)(a), and restrict such use of funds to one coach per athletic team.

1. A coach who uses personal funds to provide such effects must report such use to the FHSAA in a manner provided by FHSAA bylaw.

2. Such use of personal funds is presumed not to be an impermissible benefit, unless such use of personal funds is:

a. Not reported;

b. Reported and deemed not to be in good faith by the FHSAA; or

c. Used for recruiting purposes.

3. Beginning July 1, 2026, the maximum amount of personal funds a coach may use per athletic team per year is $15,000.

Any other organization governing interscholastic athletic

competition in this state may adopt bylaws similar to those required by this paragraph.

Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 768.135, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

768.135 Volunteer team physicians; immunity.—

(3) A practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, or s. 464.012 or registered under s. 464.0123 who gratuitously and in good faith conducts an evaluation pursuant to s. 1006.20(2)(d) ~~s. 1006.20(2)(c)~~ is not liable for any civil damages arising from that evaluation unless the evaluation was conducted in a wrongful manner.

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (17) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public school students must receive accurate and timely information regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory rights including, but not limited to, the following:

(17) ATHLETICS; PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL.—

(b) *Medical evaluation and electrocardiogram.*—Before participating in athletics, students must:

1. Satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each year, unless the parent objects in writing based on religious tenets or practices, in accordance with s. 1006.20(2)(e) ~~s.~~

~~1006.20(2)(d)~~; and

2. As applicable under s. 1006.20, receive an electrocardiogram, unless the parent objects in writing based on religious tenets or practices or secures a certificate of medical exception in accordance with s. 1006.20(2)(e) ~~s. 1006.20(2)(d)~~ or the school district is unable to obtain a public or private partnership for the provision of an electrocardiogram pursuant to s. 1006.165.

Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 1006.165, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.165 Well-being of students participating in extracurricular activities; training.—

(3) Each school district must pursue public and private partnerships to provide low-cost electrocardiograms to the student. A student athlete is exempt from the requirement in s. 1006.20(2)(d)4. ~~s. 1006.20(2)(e)4.~~ if he or she resides in a school district that is unable to obtain a public or private partnership to provide an electrocardiogram at a rate of less than $50 per student.

Section 5. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section 1012.468, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.468 Exceptions to certain fingerprinting and criminal history checks.—

(2) A district school board shall exempt from the screening requirements set forth in ss. 1012.465 and 1012.467

the following noninstructional contractors:

(g) An investigator for the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) who meets the requirements under s. 1006.20(2)(f) ~~s. 1006.20(2)(e)~~.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.