

Date of Hearing: March 21, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, AND TOURISM

Sharon Quirk-Silva, Chair

AB 1327 (Weber) – As Introduced February 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Interscholastic athletics: California Interscholastic Federation: hate violence

SUMMARY: Modifies the reporting requirements of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) to the Legislature and the Governor on its evaluation and accountability activities.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires CIF to report to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature and the Governor on its evaluation and accountability activities on or before January 1 annually.
- 2) Requires the report to include the goals and objectives of CIF with regards to, and the status of, the health and safety of pupils, coaches, officials, and spectators, including, but not limited to hate violence occurrences.
- 3) Requires CIF to develop, in consultation with community organizations that represent the interests of ethnic groups and communities of color, a standardized incident form to track hate violence that occurs at high school sporting games or sporting events, and annually post those results on their internet website.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires CIF to report to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature and the Governor on its evaluation and accountability activities on or before January 1, 2023, and on or before January 1 every seven years thereafter. The report is required to include, but not be limited to, the goals and objectives of CIF with regard to, and the status of, all of the following (Education Code 33353):
 - a) The governing structure of CIF, and the effectiveness of that governance structure in providing leadership for interscholastic athletics in secondary schools.
 - b) Methods to facilitate communication with agencies, organizations, and public entities whose functions and interests interface with CIF.
 - c) The quality of coaching and officiating, including, but not limited to, professional development for coaches and athletic administrators, and parent education programs.
 - d) Gender equity in interscholastic athletics, including, but not limited to, the number of male and female pupils participating in interscholastic athletics in secondary schools, and action taken by CIF in order to ensure compliance with Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 et seq.).
 - e) Health and safety of pupils, coaches, officials, and spectators.

- f) The economic viability of interscholastic athletics in secondary schools, including, but not limited to, the promotion and marketing of interscholastic athletics.
 - g) New and continuing programs available to pupil athletes.
 - h) Awareness and understanding of emerging issues related to interscholastic athletics in secondary schools.
- 2) States the intent of the Legislature that CIF accomplish all of the following (EDC 33353):
- a) During years in which CIF is not required to report to the Legislature and the Governor pursuant to paragraph (1), it shall hold a public comment period relating to that report at three regularly scheduled federation council meetings per year.
 - b) Annually allow public comment on the policies and practices of CIF at a regularly scheduled federation council meeting.
 - c) Require sections of CIF to allow public comment on the policies and practices of the CIF and its sections, and the report required pursuant to paragraph (1), at each regularly scheduled section meeting.
 - d) Engage in a comprehensive outreach effort to promote the public hearings described in subparagraphs (a) and (c).

FISCAL EFFECT: None. This measure is keyed nonfiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

- 1) Author's statement. According to the author, "In California, during a penalty kick period at a soccer game at Oak Ridge High School in 2022, a Black student from Buchanan High School received monkey or ape noises from a student at the opposing school; students from Coronado High School threw tortillas at basketball players from Orange Glen, a predominantly Latino School; a Latina student from Buchanan High School was barked at by a student at the opposing school; during a girls' playoff basketball game against McClatchy High School, Oak Ridge fans directed racial and body-shaming jeers at McClatchy's Asian American players; and players from Cathedral Catholic High School in San Diego was placed on a two year probation after images were shared depicting shirts that read 'Catholics vs. Convicts III' prior to playing Lincoln High School, a predominantly low-income, majority-minority high school.

"Despite taking a more subdued form, unconscious or aversive racism hurts minority student-athletes in high school sports in at least one major way: it marginalizes their academic, social, and psychological well-being. CIF is charged with governing interscholastic athletics and cannot begin to strengthen the integrity of students or promote respect and good citizenship if these racist incidents continue unchecked. As an organization whose mission is to promote equity, quality, and character, CIF should be able to hold schools accountable for the racist actions that happen during California sporting events."

The sponsor of the bill, the California Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP, writes in support of AB 1327 that, “By requiring CIF to not only track but also make available a report of hate violence occurrences to the general public, CIF is forced to recognize the serious health implications and trauma caused to the victims of racist incidents, and hold students and schools accountable for racist behavior that must stop.”

- 2) Background: CIF history, scope and purpose. CIF was organized at a high school athletic convention on March 28, 1914, as a voluntary association of schools. Since 1914, the California Department of Education (CDE) has allowed the CIF to regulate interscholastic athletics, and the CIF has been the rule-making body for all of California's K-12 athletics programs since 1917. In 1981, that rule-making authority was expanded to include control over all interscholastic athletics, replacing the CDE in that role.

The Federation consists of ten regional sections, each of which is divided into several "leagues," for purposes of scheduling athletic contests, assigning referees, etc. Similar organizations exist in other states. Almost all public, private and parochial schools in California are CIF members.

The primary responsibilities of CIF are to administer high school athletic programs and to promulgate and enforce rules relating to a student's involvement in athletics - age, semesters in school, scholarship, residence, transfer status, and amateur standing. Such regulations, which are generated by the 1,609 member base of secondary schools, prevent undesirable exploitation of high school students, provide for the welfare of participants, and ensure that interscholastic athletics offer major benefits to students in a safe, rewarding environment.

- 3) Committee Amendments. Change the reporting requirement from every year to every three years.
- 4) Prior and related legislation.
 - a) AB 1660 (Cooper) Chapter 122, Statutes of 2016, eliminated the sunset on provisions related to CIF, and instead requires legislative hearings every seven years to correspond with the release of specific reporting by the CIF.
 - b) SB 107 (Price), Chapter 230, Statutes of 2011, among other things, extended the sunset on CIF statutes from January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2017.
 - c) SB 562 (Torlakson), Chapter 301, Statutes of 2006, among other things, extended the sunset on CIF statutes from January 1, 2007 to January 1, 2012.
 - d) SB 225 (Kuehl), Chapter 889, Statutes of 2001, among other things, extended the sunset date from January 1, 2001, to January 1, 2007.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP (Sponsor)

Opposition

There is no opposition on file.

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