

Senate Bill 309

By: Senators Jones of the 25th, Bethel of the 54th, Hill of the 6th, Jeffares of the 17th, Mullis of the 53rd and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to certain programs and activities under the "Quality Basic Education
3 Act," so as to provide that high schools that receive state funding cannot participate in an
4 athletic association which prohibits religious expression on the clothing of student athletes;
5 to provide that high schools that receive state funding cannot participate in an athletic
6 association which prohibits member schools from organizing and playing scrimmage
7 matches, games, or other athletic competitions with nonmember schools; to provide for
8 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 SECTION 1.

11 Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
12 relating to certain programs and activities under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is
13 amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

14 "20-2-316.3.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'athletic association' means any association of
16 schools or any other similar organization which acts as an organizing, sanctioning,
17 scheduling, or rule-making body for interscholastic athletic events in which public high
18 schools in this state participate.

19 (b) No high school which receives funding under this article shall participate in, sponsor,
20 or provide coaching staff for interscholastic athletic events which are conducted under the
21 authority of, conducted under the rules of, or scheduled by any athletic association which
22 prohibits personal and voluntary religious expression of student athletes other than as
23 required to protect the safety of the participants or the conduct of the athletic event in a
24 manner consistent with the rules of the particular athletic event.

25 (c) No high school which receives funding under this article shall participate in, sponsor,
26 or provide coaching staff for interscholastic athletic events which are conducted under the

27 authority of, conducted under the rules of, or scheduled by any athletic association which
28 prohibits its member schools from organizing and playing scrimmage games, matches, or
29 other athletic competitions with schools which are not member schools even though:

30 (1) Prior to such athletic competition, the administrators of both schools agree in writing
31 to participate in such competition;

32 (2) Each school is in compliance with the requirements of Code Section 20-2-319.2;

33 (3) Each school is in compliance with the requirements of Code Section 20-2-324.1; and

34 (4) Such athletic competitions are limited to high school student athletes."

35 **SECTION 2.**

36 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.