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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1005**

Offered January 11, 2012

Prefiled January 11, 2012

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 1 of Title 22.1 a section numbered 22.1-7.1, relating to participation in public school interscholastic programs by nonpublic school students.*

Patron—Ramadan

Referred to Committee on Education

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 1 of Title 22.1 a section numbered 22.1-7.1 as follows:**

*§ 22.1-7.1. Organizations governing public school interscholastic programs; participation by nonpublic school students.*

*A. No public school shall become a member of any organization or entity whose purpose is to regulate or govern interscholastic programs that does not deem eligible for participation a student who (i) is receiving home instruction pursuant to § 22.1-254.1, (ii) has demonstrated evidence of progress for two years in compliance with subsection C of § 22.1-254.1, (iii) is entitled to free tuition in a public school pursuant to § 22.1-3, (iv) has not reached the age of 19 by August 1 of the current school year, (v) is an amateur who receives no compensation, but participates solely for the educational, physical, mental, and social benefits of the activity, (vi) complies with all disciplinary rules applicable to all public high school athletes, and (vii) complies with all other rules governing awards, all-star games, parental consents, and physical examinations applicable to all high school athletes.*

*Eligibility shall be limited to participation in interscholastic programs at the school serving the attendance zone in which such student lives. Eligible students shall meet such other eligibility and participation requirements as may be established by the governing organization or entity to ensure competitive equity.*

*B. Reasonable fees may be charged to such students to cover the costs of participation in such interscholastic programs.*

INTRODUCED

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