

Avera Welcomes
JUSTIN KRAJCA, MD
 Orthopedic Trauma Surgery

LEARN MORE

Avera

House blocks effort to let more home-schoolers join public school activities

Dana Ferguson, dferguson@argusleader.com Published 5:38 p.m. CT Feb. 12, 2018 | Updated 5:42 p.m. CT Feb. 12, 2018



(Photo: Sam Caravana / Argus Leader)

PIERRE — South Dakota lawmakers on Monday defeated a proposal to create a uniform state policy allowing eligible home-schooled students to participate in high school activities.

The House of Representatives voted 28-38 on House Bill 1120, coming up short of the majority the measure needed to advance.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Sue Peterson, R-Sioux Falls, said the measure was needed to ensure that home-schooled students who made grades had access to activities offered through the South Dakota High School Activities Association. Home-schooled students' request to join activities within their school district are currently weighed at the local level.

"Our state motto is 'Under God, the people rule,'" she said. "Not under God, local government rules."

Other lawmakers echoed her concerns, urging their colleagues to pass the proposal, which has become a perennial request in Pierre.

"I think it's time those walls between school districts and home-schoolers be torn down," said Rep. Thomas Brunner, R-Nisland. "Sometimes it takes a higher authority to bring a school along."

More: [Harrisburg father irked by 'lunch shaming' at middle school](http://www.argusleader.com/story/news/2018/02/08/harrisburg-father-irked-school-lunch-shaming-south-dakota-middle-school/322304002/) ([/story/news/2018/02/08/harrisburg-father-irked-school-lunch-shaming-south-dakota-middle-school/322304002/](http://www.argusleader.com/story/news/2018/02/08/harrisburg-father-irked-school-lunch-shaming-south-dakota-middle-school/322304002/)).

Opponents said the bill was unnecessary and would cause problems because the activities association wouldn't be able to verify that home-schooled students are academically qualified to participate. They also said the measure would make home-schooled students subject to a different level of academic achievement to join activities.

"It creates an exception and a preference (for home-schooled students)," said Rep. Mike Stowers, R-Yankton. "You can't have your cake and eat it too."

The bill was tabled in the House Education Committee then the committee recommended the bill not pass prior to Peterson's move to call the bill to the House floor.

Follow Dana Ferguson on Twitter @bydanaferguson, call 605-370-2493 or email dferguson@argusleader.com

Read or Share this story: <http://www.argusleader.com/story/news/politics/2018/02/12/south-dakota-legislature/330253002/>

PRESIDENTS' DAY SALE \$9.99 for a year

SUBSCRIBE
 (HTTP://OFFERS.ARGUSLEADER.COM/SPECIALOFFERS?)

GPS-
SOURCE=BENBFE&UTM_MEDIUM=NANOBAR&UTM_SOURCE=BOUNCE-
EXCHANGE&UTM_CAMPAIGN=PRESIDENTS18)



YOUR SHOWS, YOUR WAY,
ONLY WITH **DIRECTV**

[Check it out](#)

The banner features a blue background with white geometric patterns including triangles, circles, and a snowflake. The AT&T globe logo is on the left, followed by a snowflake icon. The text 'YOUR SHOWS, YOUR WAY, ONLY WITH DIRECTV' is centered, with 'DIRECTV' in bold. A white button with the text 'Check it out' is on the right.