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Judiciary Committee approves bill that would require NCHSAA hold open meetings

Tags: [NC High School Athletic Association](#), [legislation](#), [Senate Bill 52](#), [NCHSAA Board of Directors](#)

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By Nick Stevens, HighSchoolOT Managing Editor

RALEIGH, N.C. — The North Carolina Senate Committee on Judiciary quickly gave a favorable vote to Senate Bill 52, which would require organizations like the N.C. High School Athletic Association to abide by the state's open meetings laws.

After the vote on Tuesday, the bill now heads to the Senate Rules committee for a vote before it goes to the full Senate.

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Senate Bill 52, "[Open Meetings/Administering Organizations](#)", would amend an existing state law to require "an administering organization" be subjected to the state law requiring open meetings.

After [the passage of House Bill 91](#) in 2021, a law that reduced the autonomy of the NCHSAA and required it to enter into a former agreement with the State Board of Education, the NCHSAA is now considered an administering organization in state law. However, this bill does not specifically single out the NCHSAA. If it becomes law, the bill would apply to any organization labeled "an

administering organization."

SB 52 was introduced by Sen. Vickie Sawyer (R-Iredell), Sen. Todd Johnson (R-Union), and Sen. Tom McInnis (R-Richmond). The three senators [led the investigation](#) into the NCHSAA in 2020 and 2021, which led to the passage of HB 91.

Johnson presented to the bill to the committee on Tuesday and said there have been issues with decisions about athletics being made behind closed doors, leading to problems with the appeals process.



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Last year, the NCHSAA entered into [a memorandum of understanding](#) with the State Board of Education, which required access to meetings and records.

"The NCHSAA shall provide notice of, and access to, all meetings of its membership to all participating schools. The NCHSAA also shall broadcast electronically the meetings of its membership and its Board of Directors in a manner accessible to the public to be

announced on its website," [the agreement](#) states.

For the first time, audio of the NCHSAA Board of Directors meeting was streamed live online in December. The public was able to hear the discussion of various topics by the board, witness votes in real time, and hear deliberations.



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The NCHSAA is permitted to go into closed session to discuss issues outlined in state law.

The NCHSAA is not the only non-profit organization that entered into an agreement with the State Board to administer high school athletics for public schools in North Carolina. The Carolina Athletic Association for Schools of Choice [also entered into an agreement](#). The CAASC includes public charter schools in the state.

SB 52 would need approval of the Senate and House before it goes to Gov. Roy Cooper for a signature or veto. If SB 52 is passed, it will be effective when it becomes law.



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Tags: NC High School Athletic Association, legislation, Senate Bill 52, NCHSAA Board of Directors

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