

KHSAA transfer 'process problem': Joint resolution would require report by Dec. 1

[Jason Frakes](#)

Joint Resolution 49 was introduced by Rep. Nick Wilson of Whitley County

The joint resolution was a subject of discussion during Wednesday's KHSAA Board of Control meeting

LEXINGTON — A joint resolution introduced Tuesday by the Kentucky House of Representatives would require the [Kentucky High School Athletic Association](#) to submit a report on the processing of transfers by Dec. 1.

Sponsored by [Rep. Nick Wilson](#) of Whitley County, [Joint Resolution 49](#) looks to address the “inefficiencies and insufficiencies in the information provided for the rulings (that) can cause delays that impact student-athletes’ ability to participate in interscholastic athletics.”

“It’s not a KHSAA problem,” Wilson told The Courier Journal. “It’s a process problem. I think we’re on the same page about that. ... (The joint resolution) will tell (the KHSAA) to bring us the answers.”

During Wednesday’s KHSAA Board of Control meeting, commissioner Julian Tackett said he expects the joint resolution to “pass with flying colors.”

The joint resolution will require the KHSAA to submit the following information by Dec. 1 so the General Assembly can consider possible legislation in 2026:

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- * A report of the past two full schools years detailing the transfers submitted, the initial ruling by the ruling officer, whether or not the case was appealed, the results of the appeal, the presence of counsel in the appeal and the eventual ruling.

- * How recent changes by the KHSAA to implement an electronic system to manage the athlete transfer process have been implemented and how this system has impacted the eligibility determination process, including the appeal process.

- * Changes made or proposed through the membership process and the results of those changes.

* Recommendations for proposed changes to statutes governing the KHSAA, including possible exemptions from KRS Chapter 13B or further revisions to the administrative timeline, hearing to improve the transfer and eligibility process.

The [KHSAA's Bylaw 6](#) requires transfer athletes who have competed in varsity play to sit out one year unless they meet one of several exceptions, including a change of residence, a change in custody or if the athlete was subjected to bullying.

The joint resolution said the KHSAA has processed more than 900 transfers over each of the past two school years, and Tackett previously has mentioned the sheer volume of transfer requests has become a burden on the KHSAA staff.

Tackett said approximately 70% of all transfers are ultimately ruled eligible.

"The question might be asked, 'If 70% are getting eligible, why not give everybody one (transfer without restriction)?" Tackett said during Wednesday's Board of Control meeting. "It's because of the 30% gaining athletic advantage. That's what our members want (to address)."

Tackett mentioned two possible changes to Bylaw 6 that could make the processing of transfers less time-consuming:

* Allowing a "free" transfer for all athletes following their freshman years.

"If half the transfer cases are ninth-graders who played one game of JV, could we agree to put it to (the schools) to change that?" Tackett

said.

* An electronic means of processing transfers that would shorten deadlines. Tackett said the current 15-day timeline is based on a rule developed when U.S. Mail was the primary means of sending forms.

Tackett also said in-season transfers — athletes who play for two schools during the same season — have become a “red flag” for members schools and must be addressed.

Joint Resolution 49 follows [House Bill 292](#), which Wilson introduced earlier this month. That bill called for all first-time transfers to be immediately eligible at their new schools.

Wilson confirmed House Bill 292 no longer will be pursued in lieu of the joint resolution.

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