Tennessee lawmakers consider dismantling TSSAA amid transfer rule changes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WZTV) -

A bill that would adopt new TSSAA high school transfer rules is now delayed until the next legislative session in 2026 even though it already passed the state senate.

Earlier this year, the <u>TSSAA Board approved a new "one-time transfer rule"</u> for non-athletic reasons that would not punish student athletes when it comes to eligibility.

State Sen. Adam Lowe (R-Calhoun) already had a one-time transfer rule bill on file, but Lowe tells FOX17 News' Johnny Maffei it was amended to codify what the TSSAA already approved.

That bill, SB16/HB25, already passed the state senate, but it's now pushed to the next legislative session for the House.

The TSSAA board fears lawsuits could come in the future if the rule is written into law.

Lawmakers are now calling for more oversight into TSSAA, with a goal of more power to the parents and students.

"The process of getting to where we are has become the bigger issue. We knew that parents and students didn't have a voice. The TSSAA is a 100 year old 5013 organization that is member participation and

member governed and those members only tend to be AD's and school employees. Nowhere at the governing table or decision making table are parents or athletes," Lowe said in a news conference this week.

Lawmakers went on to say transfer rule talks will continue this summer, even considering "dismantling" the TSSAA.

FOX17 has been following the transfer rule changes at the high school level closely. We will continue to follow the story that impacts thousands of families across the Volunteer State.

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