

HOUSE No. 4245

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jeffrey Rosario Turco

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to fairness in high school athletics.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jeffrey Rosario Turco</i>	<i>19th Suffolk</i>	<i>10/12/2023</i>

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By Representative Turco of Winthrop, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Jeffrey Rosario Turco for legislation to authorize schools and students participating in certain athletic programs to seek arbitration to review athletic programs eligibility decisions. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to fairness in high school athletics.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 47A the
2 following section:-

3 Section 47B. (a) A school or student participating in an athletic program pursuant to
4 section 47 may seek arbitration to review athletic program eligibility decisions taken by the
5 school committee or its authorized representative.

6 (b) The arbitration shall be conducted by 1 or more arbitrators serving on the American
7 Arbitration Association’s National Roster of Arbitrators and Mediators. Each party shall bear the
8 cost of its own representation, and all other costs and fees of the arbitration shall be split equally
9 among the parties involved. The parties shall only commence arbitration after the exhaustion of
10 all remedies internal to the school committee or its authorized representative. The department of
11 elementary and secondary education shall promulgate regulations setting all other minimum
12 standards for neutral third-party arbitration.