



NEWS

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NYS Senate Recesses Without Vote On Fairness Bill

Could Be Voted On In A Fall Session

Friday night, the New York State Senate recessed without voting on the Fairness In Competition Act (A.2162-A/S.2064-A). The legislation, sponsored by Assemblyman Joe Morelle, was passed by the State Assembly 92 to 46 just ten days ago, leaving very little time to press for the bill in the closing days of the regular session.

“We just ran out of time in this session,” said Rich Romeo, President of the NYS Wrestling Coaches Association. “It passed the Assembly by a big margin and we have lots of support in the Senate. Our chances of getting something done are very good. The legislation could possibly be acted on when the Senate returns for their fall session, but it’s too early to tell”.

The Fairness In Competition Act was written to address the long-standing fundamental unfairness of state tournament competition for certain individual sports - most notably wrestling. It would require that a proportionally based, multiple-entry state tournament format be used for these sports.

The legislation was introduced in January 2005 after repeated attempts by the NYSWCA and Assemblyman Morelle to convince the NYSPHSAA to reform the state wrestling tournament were rejected by the association. The New York State Wrestling Tournament is the only tournament in the country where sections, regardless of the number of schools competing, send a single entry to the tournament

The NYS Public High School Athletic Association is opposed to the bill.

“The wrestling community rallied behind the legislation in the Assembly and beat back NYSPHSAA’s groundless and negative campaign to defeat the bill,” said NYS Coaches Association Executive Director Dick Farfaglia. In the process, we won the support of Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Education. She is an important and influential legislator and she just didn’t preside over the vote, she was an advocate for the bill in her committee,” said Farfaglia

“As coaches, we are still hopeful that NYSPHSAA will recognize the problem as we do and make the changes necessary to allow more New York state high school wrestlers a better opportunity to compete at the state level regardless of where their school may be located,” said Romeo.