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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### **AB 932 (Irwin) - Community youth athletics programs: sex or gender discrimination**

**Version:** June 19, 2025

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 18, 2025

**Policy Vote:** JUD. 11 - 0, ED. 5 - 1

**Mandate:** Yes

**Consultant:** Liah Burnley

**Bill Summary:** AB 932 extends existing gender discrimination prohibitions in youth sports to local educational agencies.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- Ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures potentially in the millions of dollars to the extent LEAs face an increased number of lawsuits resulting from allegations of discrimination and have to respond. This bill expands discrimination prohibitions to all of the state's approximately 2,300 LEAs, many of which own recreational facilities used by third-party athletic programs.
- Unknown, potentially significant costs to the state funded trial court system (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to adjudicate civil actions. Expanding existing law to local education agencies could lead to lengthier and more complex court proceedings with attendant workload and resource costs to the court. The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the number of cases filed and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500 in staff in workload. If court days exceed 10, costs to the trial courts could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.

**Background:** Existing law prohibits a city, county, or special district, including a community services district, recreation and park district, regional park district, regional park and open-space district, regional open-space park district, or resort improvement district from discriminating against any person on the basis of sex or gender in its operation of a community youth athletics program or in its allocation of parks and recreation facilities supporting such programs.

Existing law also provides that, in civil actions brought alleging discrimination in community youth athletics programs, courts shall consider several enumerated factors, among others, in determining whether discrimination exists, including: (1) Whether the selection of community youth athletics programs offered effectively accommodate the athletic interests and abilities of members of both genders; (2) The provision of moneys, equipment, and supplies; (3) Scheduling of games and practice times; (4) Opportunity to receive coaching; (5) Assignment and compensation of coaches; (6) Access to lands

and areas accessed through permitting, leasing, or other land use arrangements, or otherwise accessed through a city, a county, a city and county, or a special district; (7) Selection of the season for a sport; (8) Location of the games and practices; (9) Locker rooms; (10) Practice and competitive facilities; (11) Publicity, and (12) Officiation by umpires, referees, or judges who have met training and certification standards.

Currently, this prohibition does not apply to schools or school facilities and resources.

**Proposed Law:** This bill adds local educational agencies to the list of entities prohibited from discriminating against a person on the basis of gender in its operation of any community youth athletic program or interscholastic athletic program and how it allocates use of its facilities for such programs. Specifically, this bill:

- Defines “Local educational agency” means a school district, county office of education, or charter school.
- Defines “School and recreation facilities and resources” to include school facilities, including, but not limited to, athletic fields, athletic courts, gymnasiums, recreational rooms, restrooms, concession stands, and storage spaces; lands and areas accessed through permitting, renting, leasing, or other land use arrangements, or otherwise accessed through local educational agencies; sports and recreation equipment; devices used to promote athletics such as scoreboards, banners, and advertising; and all moneys used in conjunction with youth athletics.
- Requires, in an action alleging discrimination, a court to assess whether the local educational agency has effectively accommodated the athletic interests and abilities of both genders in any one of the following ways:
  - The community youth athletics program opportunities for boys and girls are provided in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective numbers in the community; or,
  - Where the members of one gender are underrepresented in community youth athletics programs, the local educational agency can demonstrate that the interests and abilities of the members of that gender have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program and allocation of resources.

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