

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

**SESSION LAW 2006-23  
HOUSE BILL 1864**

**AN ACT TO FOSTER FAIR COMPETITION IN SCHOOL ATHLETICS IN  
CERTAIN COUNTIES.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12(23) reads as rewritten:

"(23) Power to Adopt Eligibility Rules for Interscholastic Athletic Competition. – The State Board of Education may adopt rules governing interscholastic athletic activities conducted by local boards of education, including eligibility for student participation. The State Board of Education may authorize a designated organization to apply and enforce the Board's rules governing participation in interscholastic athletic activities at the high school level. If the State Board of Education does authorize a designated organization to apply and enforce the Board's rules, that designated organization shall permit the creation of a small school conference to be afforded all rights and privileges granted to other conferences within that designated organization if all of the following criteria are met:

- a. There are at least five small schools within a geographic region. For purposes of this subdivision, 'small school' shall mean a high school with an average daily membership of 300 students or less.
- b. The small school conference consists of only small schools.
- c. The small school conference is open to all small schools in the geographic region.
- d. Participation in the small school conference is optional."

**SECTION 2.** A small school conference may be created for the 2006-2007 school year provided the designated organization authorized by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(23) is notified no later than September 15, 2006. Schools joining a small school conference by that date may withdraw, without penalty, from any scheduling contracts previously entered into for the 2006-2007 season.

**SECTION 3.** This act applies only to Dare, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties.

**SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2006.

s/ Beverly E. Perdue  
President of the Senate

s/ James B. Black  
Speaker of the House of Representatives