

HOUSE BILL 1569

F1, J1

0lr2948

By: **Delegate Hill**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2020

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public School and Youth Sports Programs – Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a certain youth athlete from returning to play until certain
4 events occur; limiting a certain football season to certain months of the year;
5 prohibiting a county board of education, school, or youth sports program from
6 offering, approving, or sponsoring football or certain physical activities related to
7 football during certain months of the year; requiring a certain youth athlete to use
8 certain equipment when participating in certain sports; limiting the number of
9 certain types of practices for football for certain youth athletes; prohibiting a youth
10 athlete from engaging in certain activities while participating in certain sports;
11 limiting the types of contact certain youth athletes may engage in for a certain sport;
12 authorizing certain youth athletes to participate only in certain sports or activities;
13 defining certain terms; making conforming changes; and generally relating to public
14 school and youth sports programs.

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Education
17 Section 7–433.1
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
21 Article – Health – General
22 Section 14–501
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2019 Replacement Volume)

25 BY adding to
26 Article – Health – General
27 Section 14–502 and 14–503
28 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2019 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7-433.1.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
INDICATED.

(2) “FOOTBALL” MEANS TACKLE FOOTBALL THAT IS PLAYED BY A
STUDENT IN AN ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL DURING:

(I) A COACH-SUPERVISED, SCHOOL-APPROVED, SPORTS- OR
CONDITIONING-RELATED ACTIVITY;

(II) AN INTRAMURAL ATHLETIC ACTIVITY;

(III) AN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITY; OR

(IV) A PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

(3) “FOOTBALL SEASON” MEANS THE TIME PERIOD EACH YEAR IN
WHICH FOOTBALL MAY BE PLAYED BY A STUDENT OR MADE AVAILABLE FOR
STUDENTS BY A SCHOOL OR COUNTY BOARD, INCLUDING PRESEASON PRACTICES,
REGULAR SEASON PRACTICES, TOURNAMENTS, AND PLAYOFF GAMES.

(B) EACH ANNUAL FOOTBALL SEASON SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE MONTHS
OF AUGUST THROUGH DECEMBER.

(C) A COUNTY BOARD OR SCHOOL MAY NOT OFFER, APPROVE, OR SPONSOR
FOOTBALL OR ANY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RELATED TO FOOTBALL FOR STUDENTS
DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY THROUGH JULY.

Article – Health – General

14-501.

(a) [(1)] In this [section] SUBTITLE the following words have the meanings
indicated.

[(2)] (B) “Concussion” means a traumatic injury to the brain causing an

1 immediate and, usually, short-lived change in mental status or an alteration of normal
2 consciousness resulting from:

3 [(i)] (1) A fall;

4 [(ii)] (2) A violent blow to the head or body; or

5 [(iii)] (3) The shaking or spinning of the head or body.

6 (C) “SEASON” MEANS THE TIME PERIOD EACH YEAR IN WHICH AN ATHLETIC
7 ACTIVITY RELATED TO A SPORT IS PLAYED BY YOUTH ATHLETES OR MADE
8 AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH ATHLETES BY A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM, INCLUDING
9 TRAINING SESSIONS, PRACTICES, GAMES, AND TOURNAMENTS.

10 [(3)] (D) “Sudden cardiac arrest” means a condition in which the heart
11 suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating.

12 [(4)] (E) “Youth athlete” means an individual who participates in an
13 athletic activity in association with a youth sports program conducted:

14 [(i)] (1) At a public **OR PRIVATE** school facility; or

15 [(ii)] (2) By a recreational athletic organization.

16 [(5)] (F) “Youth sports program” means a program organized for
17 recreational athletic competition or instruction for participants who are under the age of
18 19 years.

19 **14-502.**

20 [(b)] (A) (1) A youth sports program shall make available information on
21 concussions, head injuries, and sudden cardiac arrest developed by the State Department
22 of Education under §§ 7-433 and 7-436 of the Education Article to coaches, youth athletes,
23 and the parents or guardians of youth athletes.

24 (2) A coach of a youth sports program shall review the information provided
25 in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

26 [(c)] (B) (1) A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or
27 other head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from play at that time.

28 (2) A youth athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play
29 until the youth athlete has [obtained]:

30 (I) **OBTAINED** written clearance from a licensed health care

provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions; AND

(II) BEEN CLEARED TO RETURN TO FULL ACADEMIC PARTICIPATION AT HIS OR HER REGULAR SCHOOL.

[(d)] (C) Before a youth sports program may use a facility owned or operated by a local government, the local government shall provide notice to the youth sports program of the requirements of this section.

14-503.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A YOUTH ATHLETE WHO IS BELOW THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL OF PLAY.

(B) (1) EACH ANNUAL FOOTBALL SEASON SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE MONTHS OF AUGUST THROUGH DECEMBER.

(2) A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM MAY NOT OFFER, APPROVE, OR SPONSOR FOOTBALL OR ANY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RELATED TO FOOTBALL FOR YOUTH ATHLETES DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY THROUGH JULY.

(C) A YOUTH ATHLETE SHALL USE THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM:

(1) FOR LACROSSE, HOCKEY, RUGBY, AND FOOTBALL, PROPER EYE PROTECTION, HEADGEAR, AND MOUTH GEAR THAT IS SIZE-APPROPRIATE, REGARDLESS OF GENDER, AS DEFINED BY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RULES; AND

(2) FOR GYMNASTICS, WHILE USING APPARATUS, PROPER MOUTH GEAR.

(D) A YOUTH ATHLETE PARTICIPATING IN TACKLE FOOTBALL MAY PARTICIPATE IN A FULL-CONTACT PRACTICE FOR ONLY 15 MINUTES EACH PRACTICE FOR A MAXIMUM OF:

(1) 30 MINUTES EACH WEEK DURING THE PRESEASON; AND

(2) 15 MINUTES EACH WEEK DURING THE SEASON.

(E) A YOUTH ATHLETE WHO PARTICIPATES IN CHEERLEADING MAY NOT ENGAGE IN:

(1) ANY STUNTING OR TUMBLING UNLESS THE YOUTH ATHLETE IS UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF AN ADULT WHO IS TRAINED IN USA CHEER

1 SAFETY;

2 (2) FOR YOUTH ATHLETES UNDER THE AGE OF 14 YEARS, BASKET,
3 ELEVATOR, OR SPONGE TOSSES; OR

4 (3) FOR YOUTH ATHLETES UNDER THE AGE OF 10 YEARS, ANY AERIAL
5 RELEASE SKILL.

6 (F) A YOUTH ATHLETE PARTICIPATING IN HOCKEY OR LACROSSE MAY NOT
7 ENGAGE IN BODY CHECKING, AS DEFINED BY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RULES.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2020.