

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 27

(Senator Hayes)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Appropriations

**Higher Education - Policy on Student Concerns About Athletic Programs and
Activities - Short Title**

This bill establishes that Subtitle 16 of Title 11 of the Education Article may be cited as the “Jordan McNair Act.” That law, which was enacted in 2019, requires an institution of higher education to develop a policy with specified elements on student concerns about athletic programs and activities. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Establishing a short title for the specified law does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Jordan McNair was a 19-year-old offensive lineman who played for the University of Maryland, College Park Campus (UMCP). In May 2018, following an offseason workout with the Maryland Terrapins football team, McNair was hospitalized with heat stroke; despite an emergency liver transplant, McNair died 15 days later on June 13, 2018. According to multiple sources, he was touted as a four-star recruit, ranked in the top 25 nationally for offensive linemen. During his high school career, when he played offensive tackle for McDonogh School in Owings Mills, McNair was named to the American Family Insurance All-USA Maryland Football Team (2016) and the Baltimore Sun All-Metro first team (2015, 2016). The circumstances surrounding his

collapse, the care he received prior to his hospitalization, and the investigation following his death highlighted concerns about the treatment of student athletes in Maryland.

Under Chapters 506 and 507 of 2019 (which established Subtitle 16 of Title 11 of the Education Article), each institution of higher education must develop and adopt a written policy for receiving and addressing student concerns about the institution's athletic programs. The policy must include (1) a process through which students can share concerns about the institution's athletic programs and activities with the institution's administration, including senior officials within the administration who are not directly involved with the management of athletic programs or activities; (2) an option for students to submit their concerns confidentially; and (3) a prohibition on retaliating or discriminating against students who share their concerns under the policy. Each institution and the Maryland Higher Education Commission must submit the policy and report the number of students who shared concerns under the policy during the preceding fiscal year, as specified.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 326 (Delegates Hettleman and Lierman) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission; *The Diamondback*; Wikipedia; Department of Legislative Services

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