

# HOUSE BILL 1123

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3lr2666

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By: **Delegates Stein and Cardin**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2013

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools and Youth Sports Programs – Girls Lacrosse – Protective**  
3 **Head Gear**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to require certain  
5 girls lacrosse youth sports programs to require certain athletes to wear  
6 protective head gear during practices and games; requiring a recreational  
7 athletic organization that operates a girls lacrosse youth sports program to  
8 require certain athletes to wear protective head gear during practices and  
9 games; requiring a local government to provide a certain notice to certain  
10 operators of a girls lacrosse youth sports program under certain circumstances;  
11 authorizing a local government to withhold a certain permit under certain  
12 circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally relating to protective head  
13 gear and girls lacrosse youth sports programs.

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – Education  
16 Section 7–435  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

19 BY adding to  
20 Article – Health – General  
21 Section 14–502  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

24 Preamble

25 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as  
26 many as 3,999,000 sports–related and recreation–related concussions occur in the  
27 United States each year; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Head and facial injuries are one of the most commonly reported  
2 types of injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational  
3 activities; and

4 WHEREAS, A concussion is a type of brain injury that may range from mild to  
5 severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works; and

6 WHEREAS, A head or facial injury may occur during organized and  
7 unorganized sports and recreational activities as a result of falls or players colliding  
8 with each other, other obstacles, or the ground; and

9 WHEREAS, Young girls are at a greater risk of head or facial injuries from  
10 participation in girls lacrosse; now, therefore,

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

13 **Article – Education**

14 **7-435.**

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

17 (2) “GIRLS LACROSSE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM” MEANS A  
18 LACROSSE PROGRAM ORGANIZED FOR THE RECREATIONAL ATHLETIC  
19 COMPETITION OR INSTRUCTION OF GIRLS WHO ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 19.

20 (3) “PROTECTIVE HEAD GEAR” MEANS A HELMET THAT  
21 COMPLIES WITH THE DESIGN AND PROTECTIVE STANDARDS SET FORTH BY THE  
22 CONCUSSION TASK FORCE.

23 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE A GIRLS LACROSSE YOUTH  
24 SPORTS PROGRAM OPERATED BY A COUNTY BOARD OR PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE  
25 STATE TO REQUIRE EACH ATHLETE TO WEAR PROTECTIVE HEAD GEAR DURING  
26 PRACTICES AND GAMES.

27 **Article – Health – General**

28 **14-502.**

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

1           **(2) “GIRLS LACROSSE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM” MEANS A**  
2 **LACROSSE PROGRAM ORGANIZED FOR THE RECREATIONAL ATHLETIC**  
3 **COMPETITION OR INSTRUCTION OF GIRLS WHO ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 19.**

4           **(3) “PROTECTIVE HEAD GEAR” MEANS A HELMET THAT**  
5 **COMPLIES WITH THE DESIGN AND PROTECTIVE STANDARDS SET FORTH BY THE**  
6 **CONCUSSION TASK FORCE.**

7           **(B) A RECREATIONAL ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION THAT OPERATES A**  
8 **GIRLS LACROSSE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM SHALL REQUIRE EACH ATHLETE TO**  
9 **WEAR PROTECTIVE HEAD GEAR DURING PRACTICES AND GAMES.**

10           **(C) BEFORE A GIRLS LACROSSE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM MAY USE A**  
11 **FACILITY OWNED OR OPERATED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE LOCAL**  
12 **GOVERNMENT SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE OPERATOR OF THE GIRLS**  
13 **LACROSSE YOUTHS SPORTS PROGRAM OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS**  
14 **SECTION.**

15           **(D) A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY WITHHOLD A FACILITY USE PERMIT**  
16 **FROM A RECREATIONAL ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION THAT OPERATES A GIRLS**  
17 **LACROSSE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE**  
18 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

19           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2013.