

SENATE BILL 603

P1
SB 594/16 – EHE

7lr2044
CF HB 576

By: **Senators Bates, Eckardt, Hough, Manno, Ready, and Salling**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2017

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Months – Maryland Sportsmanship**
3 **Month**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain month as
5 Maryland Sportsmanship Month; requiring the proclamation to urge local recreation
6 and parks departments to observe Maryland Sportsmanship Month with certain
7 programs, ceremonies, and activities; specifying certain examples of appropriate
8 programs, ceremonies, and activities; and generally relating to Maryland
9 Sportsmanship Month.

10 BY renumbering

11 Article – General Provisions
12 Section 7–503 through 7–506, respectively
13 to be Section 7–504 through 7–507, respectively
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2014 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

16 BY adding to

17 Article – General Provisions
18 Section 7–503
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2014 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

21 Preamble

22 WHEREAS, Sports have the potential to be a vehicle for positive personal growth;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Those involved in sports, including coaches, players, and fans at all
25 levels, should promote good sportsmanship and foster the development of positive
26 characteristics in all individuals; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, In order to encourage and support these actions, the characteristics of
2 respect, fairness, integrity, responsibility, and perseverance are considered reflective of
3 good sportsmanship; and

4 WHEREAS, Respect is treating others the way you want to be treated, tolerating
5 differences, considering the feelings of others, dealing peacefully with anger, insults, and
6 disagreements, and taking care of the environment; and

7 WHEREAS, Fairness is playing by the rules, being open-minded, listening to others,
8 not taking advantage of others, and taking personal responsibility for mistakes; and

9 WHEREAS, Integrity is playing with honor, being humble in victory and graceful in
10 defeat, being truthful and trustworthy, having the courage to do the right thing, being
11 reliable, building a good reputation, and being loyal to your team and coaches; and

12 WHEREAS, Responsibility is doing what is expected of you, being self-disciplined,
13 thinking before you act, considering the consequences of your actions, and being
14 accountable for your choices; and

15 WHEREAS, Perseverance is always doing your best, demonstrating a positive
16 attitude, and never giving up; and

17 WHEREAS, A number of local recreation and parks departments across the State
18 have successfully implemented sportsmanship months at the local level; and

19 WHEREAS, It is critical that good sportsmanship be developed and recognized in
20 order to ensure a quality sports environment for all involved; now, therefore,

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
22 That Section(s) 7-503 through 7-506, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the
23 Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-504 through 7-507,
24 respectively.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
26 as follows:

27 **Article – General Provisions**

28 **7-503.**

29 **(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MARCH**
30 **AS MARYLAND SPORTSMANSHIP MONTH.**

1 **(B) (1) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE LOCAL RECREATION AND**
2 **PARKS DEPARTMENTS IN THE STATE TO OBSERVE MARYLAND SPORTSMANSHIP**
3 **MONTH PROPERLY WITH APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS, CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES.**

4 **(2) APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS, CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES MAY**
5 **INCLUDE:**

6 **(I) RECOGNITION OF PLAYERS, PARENTS, COACHES, AND**
7 **VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED EXEMPLARY SPORTSMANSHIP IN LOCAL**
8 **ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES;**

9 **(II) SKILL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS FOR PLAYERS;**

10 **(III) CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING SESSIONS FOR COACHES;**

11 **AND**

12 **(IV) RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS AND**
13 **PARENT COMMITMENTS THAT ARE KEY TO PROVIDING EVERY CHILD A CHANCE TO**
14 **EXPERIENCE SPORTS.**

15 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2017.