

HOUSE BILL 453

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01r0823

By: **Delegate Walker**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2020

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Public Schools and Youth Sports Programs – Tackle Football**

3 FOR the purpose of limiting a certain tackle football season to certain months in a year;
4 prohibiting a county board of education or school from offering, approving, or
5 sponsoring tackle football games during certain months in a year; prohibiting a
6 youth sports program from providing tackle football games to certain individuals
7 during certain months in a year; defining certain terms; and generally relating to
8 tackle football for public schools and youth sports programs.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education

11 Section 7–433.1

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Health – General

16 Section 14–502

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2019 Replacement Volume)

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

21 **Article – Education**

22 **7–433.1.**

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) “TACKLE FOOTBALL GAME” MEANS A TACKLE FOOTBALL GAME**
2 **THAT IS PLAYED BY A STUDENT IN SEVENTH GRADE OR BELOW DURING:**

3 **(I) A COACH–SUPERVISED, SCHOOL–APPROVED, SPORTS– OR**
4 **CONDITIONING–RELATED ACTIVITY;**

5 **(II) AN INTRAMURAL ATHLETIC ACTIVITY;**

6 **(III) AN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITY; OR**

7 **(IV) A PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

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

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

15 **(C) A COUNTY BOARD OR SCHOOL MAY NOT OFFER, APPROVE, OR SPONSOR**
16 **TACKLE FOOTBALL GAMES FOR STUDENTS DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY**
17 **THROUGH JULY.**

18 **Article – Health – General**

19 **14–502.**

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

22 **(2) “TACKLE FOOTBALL GAME” MEANS A TACKLE FOOTBALL GAME**
23 **THAT IS PLAYED BY A YOUTH ATHLETE IN A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM.**

24 **(3) “TACKLE FOOTBALL SEASON” MEANS THE TIME PERIOD EACH**
25 **YEAR IN WHICH TACKLE FOOTBALL GAMES MAY BE PLAYED BY A YOUTH ATHLETE**
26 **OR MADE AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH ATHLETES BY A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM,**
27 **INCLUDING PRESEASON PRACTICES, REGULAR SEASON PRACTICES, TOURNAMENTS,**
28 **AND PLAYOFF GAMES.**

29 **(4) “YOUTH ATHLETE” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PARTICIPATES IN**

1 A TACKLE FOOTBALL-RELATED ATHLETIC ACTIVITY IN ASSOCIATION WITH A YOUTH
2 SPORTS PROGRAM CONDUCTED:

3 (I) AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITY; OR

4 (II) BY A RECREATIONAL ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION.

5 (5) "YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM" MEANS A PROGRAM ORGANIZED FOR
6 TACKLE FOOTBALL-RELATED RECREATIONAL ATHLETIC COMPETITION OR
7 INSTRUCTION FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 14 YEARS.

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

10 (C) A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM MAY NOT PROVIDE TACKLE FOOTBALL
11 GAMES FOR YOUTH ATHLETES DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY THROUGH JULY.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2020.