

HOUSE BILL 1345

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By: **Delegate Hill**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Youth Sports Programs – Registrations, Personnel, and Policy Information –**
3 **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances under which certain students or youth
5 athletes may return to play; requiring a youth sports program to maintain and
6 update a certain registry of youth sports program personnel; requiring the registry
7 to include certain items for certain individuals; requiring youth sports program
8 personnel to complete a certain registration each year before participating in an
9 athletic event or activity; requiring youth sports program personnel to display
10 certain proof of registration in a certain manner for a certain purpose; requiring a
11 youth sports program to provide certain information to certain individuals; requiring
12 a certain parent or guardian to sign and submit a certain form to a youth sports
13 program; requiring a youth sports program to post certain information on a certain
14 website, if available; defining a certain term; and generally relating to public school
15 and youth sports programs.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Education
18 Section 7–433(c)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22 Article – Health – General
23 Section 14–501
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2019 Replacement Volume)

26 BY adding to
27 Article – Health – General
28 Section 14–503

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2019 Replacement Volume)

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

5 **Article – Education**

6 7–433.

7 (c) (1) A student who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head
8 injury in a practice or game shall be removed from play at that time.

9 (2) A student who has been removed from play may not return to play until
10 the student [has]:

11 (I) **HAS** obtained written clearance from a licensed health care
12 provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions; **AND**

13 (II) **HAS BEEN CLEARED TO RETURN TO FULL ACADEMIC**
14 **PARTICIPATION.**

15 **Article – Health – General**

16 14–501.

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

19 [(2)] (B) “Concussion” means a traumatic injury to the brain causing an
20 immediate and, usually, short-lived change in mental status or an alteration of normal
21 consciousness resulting from:

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

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

24 [(iii)] (3) The shaking or spinning of the head or body; **OR**

25 (4) **ANY TYPE OF DIRECT OR INDIRECT HIT TO THE HEAD OR BODY.**

26 [(3)] (C) “Sudden cardiac arrest” means a condition in which the heart
27 suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating.

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

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

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

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

6 **14-502.**

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

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

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

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

17 (I) **HAS** obtained written clearance from a licensed health care
18 provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions; **AND**

19 (II) **HAS BEEN CLEARED TO RETURN TO FULL ACADEMIC**
20 **PARTICIPATION.**

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

24 **14-503.**

25 (A) **IN THIS SECTION, “YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM PERSONNEL” MEANS ANY**
26 **PAID OR VOLUNTEER COACH, OFFICIAL, TRAINER, TEAM ADMINISTRATOR, OR STAFF**
27 **MEMBER WHO PARTICIPATES IN A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM.**

28 (B) (1) **A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM SHALL MAINTAIN AND ANNUALLY**
29 **UPDATE A REGISTRY OF THE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM PERSONNEL WHO**
30 **PARTICIPATE IN THE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM.**

1 **(2) THE REGISTRY SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, INCLUDE FOR EACH**
2 **INDIVIDUAL:**

3 **(I) A VALID PHOTO IDENTIFICATION;**

4 **(II) A SCREENING THAT IS EITHER:**

5 **1. A COMPLETED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK**
6 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 5-551 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE; OR**

7 **2. A COMMERCIAL SCREENING THAT:**

8 **A. IS COMPLIANT WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR CREDIT**
9 **REPORTING ACT;**

10 **B. PROVIDES THE INDIVIDUAL'S NAME, DATE OF BIRTH,**
11 **AND CURRENT RESIDENCE, VERIFIED WITH A STATE-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION;**

12 **C. INCLUDES A NATIONWIDE CRIMINAL RECORD AND**
13 **SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY SEARCH; AND**

14 **D. INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE COUNTY CRIMINAL RECORD**
15 **SEARCH;**

16 **(III) A SIGNED ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT AND**
17 **UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS OF THE YOUTH SPORTS**
18 **PROGRAM ON SAFETY PRIORITIES TO MINIMIZE RISK OF HARM TO YOUTH ATHLETES,**
19 **INCLUDING REMOVAL AND RETURN-TO-PLAY POLICIES; AND**

20 **(IV) DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLETION OF ANNUAL TRAINING**
21 **IN:**

22 **1. HEAT ILLNESS RECOGNITION, PREVENTION, AND**
23 **TREATMENT;**

24 **2. CONCUSSION AWARENESS;**

25 **3. CHILD SAFETY; AND**

26 **4. LEVELS OF CONTACT TRAINING CONSISTENT WITH**
27 **BEST PRACTICES.**

28 **(3) YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM PERSONNEL SHALL COMPLETE OR**

1 RENEW A REGISTRATION WITH A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM EACH YEAR BEFORE
2 PARTICIPATING IN ANY ATHLETIC EVENT OR ACTIVITY.

3 (4) (I) YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM PERSONNEL SHALL DISPLAY
4 PROOF OF REGISTRATION WITH THE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM TO GAIN ENTRY INTO
5 THE ARENA OF PLAY FOR ANY ATHLETIC EVENT, PRACTICE, OR GAME.

6 (II) AN INDIVIDUAL'S PROOF OF REGISTRATION SHALL BE:

7 1. DISPLAYED FOR THE DURATION OF THE ATHLETIC
8 EVENT, PRACTICE, OR GAME; AND

9 2. ON REQUEST, AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

10 (C) (1) A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE TO EACH PARENT OR
11 GUARDIAN WHO REGISTERS A YOUTH ATHLETE IN THE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM:

12 (I) INFORMATION ON:

13 1. SPORTS-RELATED HEAD INJURIES;

14 2. TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY IN CHILDREN;

15 3. YOUTH SPORTS AND HEAT ILLNESS, INCLUDING
16 DEHYDRATION; AND

17 4. REMOVAL AND RETURN-TO-PLAY POLICIES OF THE
18 YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM; AND

19 (II) A LIABILITY DISCLAIMER OR WAIVER THAT SPECIFIES THE
20 POTENTIAL FOR:

21 1. BRAIN INJURY DURING ANY ATHLETIC EVENT,
22 PRACTICE, GAME, OR ACTIVITY; AND

23 2. HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES FOR AN ATHLETIC EVENT
24 OR ACTIVITY PLAYED OUTDOORS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

25 (2) THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A YOUTH ATHLETE REGISTERED
26 WITH A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM SHALL SIGN AND SUBMIT TO THE YOUTH SPORTS
27 PROGRAM AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE INFORMATION REQUIRED
28 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

1 **(D) (1) A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF ITS**
2 **REMOVAL AND RETURN-TO-PLAY POLICY, ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**
3 **REQUIREMENTS OF § 14-502 OF THIS SUBTITLE, TO:**

4 **(I) ALL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM PERSONNEL; AND**

5 **(II) EACH PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A REGISTERED YOUTH**
6 **ATHLETE.**

7 **(2) A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM SHALL POST ITS REMOVAL AND**
8 **RETURN-TO-PLAY POLICY ON ITS WEBSITE, IF AVAILABLE.**

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
10 1, 2020.