

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 1346 (Delegate Hill)
 Ways and Means

Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission

This bill establishes a Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission, specifies membership on the commission, and requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to staff the commission. Commission members are not entitled to receive compensation but may receive reimbursement under standard State travel regulations. By December 31, 2020, the commission must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Maryland State Board of Education, and MDH. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$22,300 in FY 2021 only for contractual staff for the commission. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	22,300	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$22,300)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The commission must:

- study evidence-based policies and practices for maximizing safety for youth athletes based on national research;
- seek input from nationally recognized youth sports oversight organizations;
- study ways to reduce injury risk levels to youth athletes at different ages; and
- make recommendations for implementation of evidence-based best practices for minimizing injury risks for youth athletes.

Current Law: Youth sports programs are required to make available information on concussions, head injuries, and sudden cardiac arrest developed by the Maryland State Board of Education (MSDE) to coaches, youth athletes, and the parents or guardians of youth athletes. A coach of a youth sports program is required to review the information.

A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury in a practice or game must be removed from play at that time, and may not return to play until the youth athlete has obtained written clearance from a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

Before a youth sports program may use a facility owned or operated by a local government, the local government must provide notice to the youth sports program of the requirements in current law.

Background: MSDE and The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletics Association (MPSSAA) advise that the MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee meets three times a year to review the latest information on health and safety of high school interscholastic students, provide direction, and develop policies and implementation strategies of health and safety measures for the betterment of student athletes. MSDE and MPSSAA further advise that the committee is chaired by a nationally recognized leader on concussions and traumatic brain injury, and comprises an orthopedist, pediatricians, athletic trainers, physical therapists, neurologists, primary care physicians, school nurses, and local school system athletic administrators.

State Expenditures: MDH general fund expenditures increase by \$22,274 in fiscal 2021 only, which accounts for the bill's July 1, 2020 effective date and the requirement that the commission submit its report by December 31, 2020. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one part-time grade 16 contractual employee to staff the commission, coordinate the study of youth sports safety, and submit the report. It includes a salary, fringe benefits,

one-time start-up costs, and operating expenses, and it reflects termination of the contractual position on December 31, 2020.

Contractual Position	0.5
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$14,725
Operating Expenses	<u>7,549</u>
Total FY 2021 State Expenditures	\$22,274

Although the commission's report is due December 31, 2020, the commission remains in effect through fiscal 2025 without additional specified duties. This analysis assumes that any additional costs associated with the commission could be absorbed by MDH within existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletics Association; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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rh/jc

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