

HOUSE BILL 986

F1
HB 453/20 – W&M

2lr0647

By: **Delegate Walker**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools and Youth Sports Programs – Tackle Football Season –**
3 **Limitations**

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

10 BY adding to
11 Article – Education
12 Section 7–433.1
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Health – General
17 Section 14–502
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Education**

23 **7–433.1.**

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 INDICATED.

2 (2) "TACKLE FOOTBALL GAME" MEANS A TACKLE FOOTBALL GAME
3 THAT IS PLAYED BY A STUDENT IN SEVENTH GRADE OR BELOW DURING:

4 (I) A COACH-SUPERVISED, SCHOOL-APPROVED, SPORTS- OR
5 CONDITIONING-RELATED ACTIVITY;

6 (II) AN INTRAMURAL ATHLETIC ACTIVITY;

7 (III) AN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITY; OR

8 (IV) A PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

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

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

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

19 Article - Health - General

20 14-502.

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

23 (2) "TACKLE FOOTBALL GAME" MEANS A TACKLE FOOTBALL GAME
24 THAT IS PLAYED BY A YOUTH ATHLETE IN A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM.

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

1 **(4) “YOUTH ATHLETE” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PARTICIPATES IN**
2 **A TACKLE FOOTBALL–RELATED ATHLETIC ACTIVITY IN ASSOCIATION WITH A YOUTH**
3 **SPORTS PROGRAM CONDUCTED:**

4 **(I) AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITY; OR**

5 **(II) BY A RECREATIONAL ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION.**

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

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

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

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2022.