

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1235
Ways and Means

(Delegate Hill, *et al.*)

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, 2023, the commission must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), MDH, and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect January 1, 2023, and terminates December 31, 2027.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. MDH can staff the commission with existing resources. No effect on revenues.

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 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.

Youth sports programs seeking to use school facilities must verify in writing that they have distributed concussion information to parents or guardians and have received verifiable acknowledgment of receipt. Each youth sports program must annually affirm to the local school system its compliance with concussion information procedures.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1346 of 2020 received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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