

HOUSE BILL 450

F5

4lr1240
CF SB 433

By: **Delegates Martinez, Acevero, Alston, Bagnall, Fair, Lehman, R. Lewis, Woods, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Department of Education – Soccer Opportunities Program –**
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Soccer Opportunities Program in the State
5 Department of Education to increase opportunities for minority students to
6 participate in soccer in their communities; and generally relating to the Soccer
7 Opportunities Program.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 2–305.1

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 **2–305.1.**

17 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
18 **INDICATED.**

19 **(2) “AGENCY” MEANS A LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY SERVING A**
20 **POPULATION OF STUDENTS AT LEAST 80% OF WHICH ARE MINORITY STUDENTS.**

21 **(3) “MINORITY STUDENT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN**
22 **REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) "YOUTH SOCCER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION" MEANS A
2 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT:

3 (I) IS LOCATED IN A COUNTY WITH AN AGENCY;

4 (II) PROVIDES SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN UNDER
5 THE AGE OF 18 YEARS; AND

6 (III) IS RECOGNIZED BY US YOUTH SOCCER AS A MEMBER OF
7 THE MARYLAND STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION.

8 (B) (1) THERE IS A SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM IN THE
9 DEPARTMENT.

10 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM IS TO
11 INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITY STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCCER
12 IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

13 (C) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER THE
14 SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM.

15 (D) (1) AN AGENCY OR A YOUTH SOCCER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION MAY
16 SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE A GRANT FOR A
17 PROGRAM THAT IS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PURPOSE OF THE SOCCER
18 OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM.

19 (2) AN APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE:

20 (I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE
21 PROPOSED PROGRAM;

22 (II) A BUSINESS PLAN THAT INCLUDES THE ESTIMATED TOTAL
23 COST OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM; AND

24 (III) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE
25 DEPARTMENT.

26 (E) IN AWARDING A GRANT UNDER THE SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES
27 PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

28 (1) REQUIRE THE GRANTEE TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FROM
29 ANY COMBINATION OF FEDERAL, COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, OR PRIVATE SOURCES; AND

1 **(2) ENSURE THAT THE GRANT DOES NOT EXCEED 50% OF THE TOTAL**
2 **ANNUAL COST OF THE GRANTEE’S PROGRAM.**

3 **(F) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S**
4 **DESIGNEE SHALL:**

5 **(1) REVIEW GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE**
6 **WITH SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

7 **(2) TO THE EXTENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, PROVIDE GRANTS TO**
8 **AGENCIES AND YOUTH SOCCER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT MEET THE**
9 **REQUIREMENTS FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION.**

10 **(G) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**
11 **GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF**
12 **AT LEAST \$80,000 FOR THE SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM.**

13 **(H) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY**
14 **OUT THIS SECTION.**

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
16 1, 2024.