



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential*

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB1429  
TITLE: Education – Public School Athletics – Basketball Schedule  
DATE: 3/6/2020  
POSITION: OPPOSE  
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means  
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **opposes** HB1429.

Current Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) regulations (COMAR) already provide limitations on the number of games per week at 2. Two 3-game weeks are allowed. There are systems and structures in place that are consistent across all sports regarding such limitations.

Currently schools may schedule up to 20 regular season games and participate in either a 2- or 3-game optional tournament (if 3, the team may only play 19 regular season games). This bill would eliminate the option of a 3-game tournament and 19 regular season games. The bill calls for 20 regular season games and up to 4 tournament games or 22 regular season games for teams not participating in a tournament. The 22 regular season game option would likely never be implemented, as teams would most likely participate in a tournament either in-season or out-of-season.

This bill conflicts with current COMAR regulations regarding out-of-season participation, which apply to all sports. Local education agencies would need to expand liability coverage, coaching stipends, facility costs, travel, and other potential expenses to include participation outside of the confines of the defined season. Such expenses would not only apply to basketball, but all other sports.

It appears the bill is looking to address the NCAA evaluation period, which occurs in June. The MPSSAA and Maryland State Basketball Coaches Association are working collaboratively to create such opportunities for students outside of the season through other channels.

Seasonal limitations, number of games, etc. should be determined consistently across all sports. The MPSSAA structure of sport committees, executive council, and board of control, allows for such regulations to be vetted across the state and changes made consistently (not mandated). Such changes eventually run through the superintendents and state Board of Education.

For these reasons, the Board **opposes** this legislation and urges an **unfavorable** report.