

HOUSE BILL 1332

F1, J1

4lr2489

By: **Delegates Dumais, Barve, Busch, Hixson, Kaiser, Luedtke, McIntosh,
A. Miller, Rosenberg, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Sports Injuries in High School Female Athletes**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Sports Injuries in High
4 School Female Athletes; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the
5 Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
6 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
7 requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain
8 matters; requiring the Task Force to submit certain reports on its findings and
9 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before
10 certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
11 the Task Force to Study Sports Injuries in High School Female Athletes.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Sports Injuries in High School Female
15 Athletes.

16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

17 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
18 of the Senate;

19 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) one representative of the State Board of Education with experience
22 related to high school sports programs, appointed by the chair of the State Board;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) one representative of the Department of Health and Mental
2 Hygiene with experience related to sports injuries or adolescent health, appointed by
3 the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

4 (5) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

5 (i) one athletic trainer employed by a high school who is a
6 member of the National Athletic Trainers Association;

7 (ii) one orthopedic physician with experience in adolescent
8 female anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries;

9 (iii) one orthopedic physician with expertise in adolescent female
10 orthopedic ankle or shoulder injuries;

11 (iv) one physician with expertise in adolescent female concussion
12 injuries;

13 (v) one pediatrician with expertise in adolescent female health;

14 (vi) one physical therapist with expertise in treating
15 ligamentous knee and orthopedic ankle injuries in adolescent female athletes;

16 (vii) one female varsity member of a high school soccer, lacrosse,
17 or basketball team who incurred an ACL injury while participating in a team sport;

18 (viii) one high school athletic director with experience coaching
19 high school female athletes;

20 (ix) one coach of a high school girls' lacrosse team;

21 (x) one coach of a high school girls' soccer team; and

22 (xi) one coach of a high school girls' basketball team.

23 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

24 (d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

25 (e) A member of the Task Force:

26 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

27 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
28 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

29 (f) The Task Force shall:

1 (1) review recent medical research regarding the nature and risks of
2 sports injuries incurred by high school female athletes, including concussions, ACL
3 injuries, shoulder injuries, and orthopedic ankle injuries;

4 (2) report on the rate of sports injuries incurred by high school female
5 athletes compared to high school male athletes in the State;

6 (3) study effective methods of reducing sports injuries incurred by
7 high school female athletes, including implementation of preventive measures such as
8 conditioning exercises and the use of protective equipment;

9 (4) establish protocols and standards for clearing a female athlete to
10 return to play following an injury, including treatment plans for such athletes;

11 (5) review statutes and regulations from other states regarding high
12 school programs designed to prevent the higher rate of injury of female athletes
13 compared to male athletes;

14 (6) study whether the State Department of Education should develop
15 statutory or regulatory requirements for high school female athletic programs for the
16 prevention of injuries; and

17 (7) make recommendations regarding injury prevention, including
18 whether high schools in the State should adopt policies that:

19 (i) limit the frequency and duration of practice;

20 (ii) restrict athletic maneuvers that endanger adolescent
21 females, such as heading a soccer ball;

22 (iii) promote a warm-up program consisting of specific
23 neuromuscular and proprioceptive training techniques, such as the Prevent Injury and
24 Enhance Performance Program (PEP); and

25 (iv) require the use of additional protective equipment for female
26 athletes.

27 (g) (1) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall submit an
28 interim report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in
29 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

30 (2) On or before December 1, 2015, the Task Force shall submit a final
31 report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
32 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the
3 end of December 31, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
4 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.