

HOUSE BILL 1106

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By: **Delegate Hill**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Youth Sports Programs – Restrictions, Registration, Personnel, and Policy**
3 **Information – Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of limiting a certain football season to certain months of the year;
5 prohibiting a youth sports program from offering, approving, or sponsoring football
6 or certain physical activities related to football during certain months in a year;
7 requiring a certain youth athlete to use certain equipment when participating in
8 certain sports; limiting the number of certain types of practices for football for certain
9 youth athletes; prohibiting a youth athlete from engaging in certain activities while
10 participating in certain sports; limiting the types of contact certain youth athletes
11 may engage in for a certain sport; requiring a youth sports program to maintain and
12 update a certain registry of youth sports program personnel; requiring the registry
13 to include certain items for certain individuals; requiring youth sports program
14 personnel to complete a certain registration each year before participating in an
15 athletic event or activity; requiring youth sports program personnel to display
16 certain proof of registration in a certain manner for a certain purpose; requiring a
17 youth sports program to provide certain information to certain individuals; requiring
18 a certain parent or guardian to sign and submit a certain form to a youth sports
19 program; requiring a youth sports program to post certain information on a certain
20 website, if available; defining certain terms; making conforming changes; and
21 generally relating to youth sports programs.

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
23 Article – Health – General
24 Section 14–501
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

27 BY adding to
28 Article – Health – General
29 Section 14–503 and 14–504

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

5 **Article – Health – General**

6 14–501.

7 (a) [(1)] In this [section] SUBTITLE the following words have the meanings
8 indicated.

9 [(2)] (B) “Concussion” means a traumatic injury to the brain causing an
10 immediate and, usually, short-lived change in mental status or an alteration of normal
11 consciousness resulting from:

12 [(i)] (1) A fall;

13 [(ii)] (2) A violent blow to the head or body; or

14 [(iii)] (3) The shaking or spinning of the head or body.

15 (C) “SEASON” MEANS THE TIME PERIOD EACH YEAR IN WHICH AN ATHLETIC
16 ACTIVITY RELATED TO A SPORT IS PLAYED BY YOUTH ATHLETES OR MADE
17 AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH ATHLETES BY A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM, INCLUDING
18 TRAINING SESSIONS, PRACTICES, GAMES, AND TOURNAMENTS.

19 [(3)] (D) “Sudden cardiac arrest” means a condition in which the heart
20 suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating.

21 [(4)] (E) “Youth athlete” means an individual who participates in an
22 athletic activity in association with a youth sports program conducted:

23 [(i)] (1) At a public school facility; or

24 [(ii)] (2) By a recreational athletic organization.

25 [(5)] (F) “Youth sports program” means a program organized for
26 recreational athletic competition or instruction for participants who are under the age of
27 19 years.

28 14–502.

29 [(b)] (A) (1) A youth sports program shall make available information on
30 concussions, head injuries, and sudden cardiac arrest developed by the State Department

1 of Education under §§ 7-433 and 7-436 of the Education Article to coaches, youth athletes,
2 and the parents or guardians of youth athletes.

3 (2) A coach of a youth sports program shall review the information provided
4 in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

5 **[(c)] (B)** (1) A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or
6 other head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from play at that time.

7 (2) A youth athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play
8 until the youth athlete has obtained written clearance from a licensed health care provider
9 trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

10 **[(d)] (C)** Before a youth sports program may use a facility owned or operated by
11 a local government, the local government shall provide notice to the youth sports program
12 of the requirements of this section.

13 **14-503.**

14 **(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A YOUTH ATHLETE WHO IS UNDER THE**
15 **AGE OF 14 YEARS OR IN GRADE 8 OR LOWER.**

16 **(B) (1) EACH ANNUAL FOOTBALL SEASON SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE**
17 **MONTHS OF AUGUST THROUGH DECEMBER.**

18 **(2) A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM MAY NOT OFFER, APPROVE, OR**
19 **SPONSOR FOOTBALL OR ANY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RELATED TO FOOTBALL FOR**
20 **YOUTH ATHLETES DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY THROUGH JULY.**

21 **(C) A YOUTH ATHLETE SHALL USE THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT WHILE**
22 **PARTICIPATING IN A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM:**

23 **(1) FOR LACROSSE, HOCKEY, RUGBY, AND FOOTBALL, PROPER**
24 **HEADGEAR AND MOUTH GEAR THAT IS SIZE-APPROPRIATE, REGARDLESS OF**
25 **GENDER; AND**

26 **(2) FOR GYMNASTICS, WHILE USING APPARATUS, PROPER MOUTH**
27 **GEAR.**

28 **(D) A YOUTH ATHLETE PARTICIPATING IN TACKLE FOOTBALL MAY ONLY**
29 **PARTICIPATE IN A FULL-CONTACT PRACTICE FOR 30 MINUTES EACH PRACTICE FOR**
30 **A MAXIMUM OF:**

31 **(1) 2 HOURS EACH WEEK DURING THE PRESEASON; AND**

1 **(2) ONE HOUR AND 30 MINUTES EACH WEEK DURING THE SEASON.**

2 **(E) A YOUTH ATHLETE WHO PARTICIPATES IN CHEERLEADING MAY NOT**
3 **ENGAGE IN:**

4 **(1) AERIAL STUNTING IF THE YOUTH ATHLETE IS UNDER THE AGE OF**
5 **12 YEARS; OR**

6 **(2) FOR YOUTH ATHLETES UNDER THE AGE OF 10 YEARS, AERIAL**
7 **TOSSING IN MORE THAN ONE PRACTICE SESSION EACH WEEK IN A SEASON.**

8 **(F) A YOUTH ATHLETE PARTICIPATING IN HOCKEY OR LACROSSE MAY NOT**
9 **ENGAGE IN CHECKING.**

10 **14-504.**

11 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM PERSONNEL” MEANS ANY**
12 **PAID OR VOLUNTEER COACH, OFFICIAL, TRAINER, TEAM ADMINISTRATOR, OR STAFF**
13 **MEMBER WHO PARTICIPATES IN A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM.**

14 **(B) (1) A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM SHALL MAINTAIN AND ANNUALLY**
15 **UPDATE A REGISTRY OF THE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM PERSONNEL WHO**
16 **PARTICIPATE IN THE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM.**

17 **(2) THE REGISTRY SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, INCLUDE FOR EACH**
18 **INDIVIDUAL:**

19 **(I) A VALID PHOTO IDENTIFICATION;**

20 **(II) A COMPLETED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK IN**
21 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 5-551 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE;**

22 **(III) A SIGNED ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT AND**
23 **UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS OF THE YOUTH SPORTS**
24 **PROGRAM ON SAFETY PRIORITIES TO MINIMIZE RISK OF HARM TO YOUTH ATHLETES,**
25 **INCLUDING REMOVAL AND RETURN TO PLAY POLICIES; AND**

26 **(IV) DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLETION OF ANNUAL TRAINING**
27 **IN:**

28 **1. HEAT ILLNESS RECOGNITION, PREVENTION, AND**
29 **TREATMENT;**

- 1 2. **CONCUSSION AWARENESS;**
- 2 3. **CHILD SAFETY; AND**
- 3 4. **LEVELS OF CONTACT TRAINING CONSISTENT WITH**
- 4 **BEST PRACTICES.**

5 **(3) YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM PERSONNEL SHALL COMPLETE OR**
6 **RENEW A REGISTRATION WITH A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM EACH YEAR BEFORE**
7 **PARTICIPATING IN ANY ATHLETIC EVENT OR ACTIVITY.**

8 **(4) (I) YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM PERSONNEL SHALL DISPLAY**
9 **PROOF OF REGISTRATION WITH THE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM TO GAIN ENTRY INTO**
10 **THE ARENA OF PLAY FOR ANY ATHLETIC EVENT, PRACTICE, OR GAME.**

11 **(II) AN INDIVIDUAL’S PROOF OF REGISTRATION SHALL BE:**

- 12 1. **DISPLAYED FOR THE DURATION OF THE ATHLETIC**
- 13 **EVENT, PRACTICE, OR GAME; AND**
- 14 2. **ON REQUEST, AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.**

15 **(C) (1) A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE TO EACH PARENT OR**
16 **GUARDIAN WHO REGISTERS A YOUTH ATHLETE IN THE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM:**

17 **(I) INFORMATION ON:**

- 18 1. **SPORTS–RELATED HEAD INJURIES;**
- 19 2. **TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY IN CHILDREN;**
- 20 3. **YOUTH SPORTS AND HEAT ILLNESS, INCLUDING**
- 21 **DEHYDRATION; AND**
- 22 4. **REMOVAL AND RETURN TO PLAY POLICIES OF THE**
- 23 **YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM; AND**

24 **(II) A LIABILITY DISCLAIMER OR WAIVER THAT SPECIFIES THE**
25 **POTENTIAL FOR:**

- 26 1. **BRAIN INJURY DURING ANY ATHLETIC EVENT OR**
- 27 **ACTIVITY; AND**

1 **2. HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES FOR AN ATHLETIC EVENT**
2 **OR ACTIVITY PLAYED OUTDOORS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.**

3 **(2) THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A YOUTH ATHLETE REGISTERED**
4 **WITH A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM SHALL SIGN AND SUBMIT TO THE YOUTH SPORTS**
5 **PROGRAM AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE INFORMATION REQUIRED**
6 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

7 **(D) (1) A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF ITS**
8 **REMOVAL AND RETURN TO PLAY POLICY, ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**
9 **REQUIREMENTS OF § 14-502 OF THIS SUBTITLE, TO:**

10 **(I) ALL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM PERSONNEL; AND**

11 **(II) EACH PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A REGISTERED YOUTH**
12 **ATHLETE.**

13 **(2) A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM SHALL POST ITS REMOVAL AND**
14 **RETURN TO PLAY POLICY ON ITS WEBSITE, IF AVAILABLE.**

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
16 1, 2019.