

# HOUSE BILL 204

F1, F2  
HB 375/23 – APP & W&M

(PRE-FILED)

4lr0713  
CF SB 165

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By: **Delegates Attar, Ebersole, Mireku-North, and Patterson**

Requested: September 26, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Appropriations and Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Coaches – Mental Health Training**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the  
4 Maryland Department of Health, each county board of education, and the Maryland  
5 Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association, to develop guidelines for public  
6 schools to train coaches to recognize indicators of mental illness and behavioral  
7 distress in students; requiring each public school in the State that offers a  
8 mainstream athletic program to provide a certain mental health training to coaches;  
9 requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission, in collaboration with the  
10 Maryland Department of Health, to develop guidelines for public institutions of  
11 higher education to train coaches to recognize indicators of mental illness and  
12 behavioral distress in students; requiring a public institution of higher education  
13 that offers an athletic program to provide a certain mental health training to  
14 coaches; and generally relating to coaches and mental health training.

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – Education  
17 Section 7-452 and 15-130.1  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Education**

23 **7-452.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “MAINSTREAM ATHLETIC PROGRAM” MEANS AN**  
2 **INTRAMURAL OR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITY THAT IS DEVELOPED AND**  
3 **OFFERED TO STUDENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE**  
4 **STATE BOARD.**

5           **(B) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MARYLAND**  
6 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EACH COUNTY BOARD, AND THE MARYLAND PUBLIC**  
7 **SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR**  
8 **PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO TRAIN COACHES TO RECOGNIZE INDICATORS OF MENTAL**  
9 **ILLNESS AND BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS IN STUDENTS, INCLUDING:**

10                   **(1) DEPRESSION;**

11                   **(2) TRAUMA;**

12                   **(3) VIOLENCE;**

13                   **(4) YOUTH SUICIDE; AND**

14                   **(5) SUBSTANCE ABUSE.**

15           **(C) EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE THAT OFFERS A MAINSTREAM**  
16 **ATHLETIC PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**  
17 **GUIDELINES DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION TO EACH COACH**  
18 **PARTICIPATING IN THE MAINSTREAM ATHLETIC PROGRAM.**

19 **15-130.1.**

20           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “ATHLETIC PROGRAM” MEANS ANY**  
21 **INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAM AT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER**  
22 **EDUCATION IN THE STATE.**

23           **(B) THE COMMISSION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MARYLAND**  
24 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC**  
25 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO TRAIN COACHES TO RECOGNIZE**  
26 **INDICATORS OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS IN STUDENTS,**  
27 **INCLUDING:**

28                   **(1) DEPRESSION;**

29                   **(2) TRAUMA;**

30                   **(3) VIOLENCE;**

1           **(4) YOUTH SUICIDE; AND**

2           **(5) SUBSTANCE ABUSE.**

3           **(C) A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT OFFERS AN**  
4 **ATHLETIC PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**  
5 **GUIDELINES DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION TO EACH COACH**  
6 **PARTICIPATING IN THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM.**

7           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
8 1, 2024.