



HB1429 EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOL ATHLETICS - BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1429 Education - Public School Athletics - Basketball Schedule**. This bill establishes in statute requirements for public school athletic schedules for basketball. A basketball team may not play more than 2 games per week, but a team may elect to play 3 games per week twice during the season. The basketball season must consist of 22 regular season games, or 20 regular season games for a team that elects to play in a tournament. Each county board of education must decide whether to authorize a team to play in a tournament. Authorization may be given to play in an already scheduled tournament or one scheduled by the county. Subject to this authorization, a team may play in up to 4 tournament games per year, including during a National Collegiate Athletic Association Evaluation Period. A tournament may be scheduled outside the normal basketball season.

AACPS opposes legislation that creates inequities in our schools system, infringes on local school system decision-making and creates unfunded mandates.

The athletics program in our county is viewed as an extension of the child's total educational experience. AACPS adheres to the rules and guidelines established by the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA). MPSSAA promotes, facilitates, and oversees all interscholastic athletic activities provided for public high school students in the State of Maryland. Accordingly, the Association collaborates with the State Department of Education and local school systems in carrying out its responsibilities.

AACPS currently offers 23 sports and only two would benefit from the opportunities outlined in this bill – boys and girls basketball. The prioritization of basketball in HB1429, over all other sports offered by local school systems, could encourage student-athletes and families to specialize in one sport as it would discourage basketball players from participating in different sports during the fall and spring seasons. Finally, this bill would also create an unfunded mandate for our school system. It would result in increased expenditures to cover additional coaching stipends, general supervision and oversight, building security, transportation, and potentially increased liability to allow teams to play outside of the winter sports season.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1429.