

Dear Representative,

The 24 Athletic Supervisors of the Local Educational Agencies in the State of Maryland are **adamantly opposed to MD House Bill (HB) 0343** due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on the student athletes in Maryland public schools. House Bill 343 creates a larger impact than modifying sports contests in the sport of basketball. Ultimately, legislation of this nature is precedent setting and could lead to additional legislation for the other 22 administered high school sports and politicizing which sports take priorities over other sports. Legislating high school sports to this nature takes away the administrative control of the 24 local educational agencies administrators for interscholastic athletics who best know how to educate, coach, and mentor through education-based athletic programs.

HB0343 is harmful to Maryland schools for several reasons:

- HB0343 challenges the exploitation of student athletes. Events without NFHS and MPSSAA sanctioning may be run by third-party for-profit organizations and promoters that have no educational oversight. Events not sanctioned by the NFHS and MPSSAA may place public school students in events run by non-educational agencies and without safeguards to ensure student safety and protection of exploitation.
- House Bill 343 sets a precedent and different standard for 396 boys and girls basketball programs out of the annual 4,215 varsity high school sports teams. In addition, the 24 LEA's (Local Education Agencies) would be impacted by student athlete participation in other sports seasons, the increased liability of school sponsored athletic activities, oversight of tournaments, eligibility compliance, transportation, facilities, coaching payment, and student safety.
- HB0343 does not authorize state tournament games for basketball or a tournament consisting of six games, which is the maximum number of games a team could play in the state tournament.
- HB0343 does not take into consideration Conference/League Championships and postponed games.
- HB0343 does not provide oversight regarding rules and regulations which are not outlined in the bill, as this house bill supersedes COMAR language. This ensures compliance with season and weekly limitations, out-of-season practice, and sets a fair and equitable standard for statewide participation.

The interscholastic athletic regulations in COMAR 13A.06.03 are intertwined to ensure safe environments and fair competition that upholds the values of school-based athletics while protecting students from exploitation. Interwoven are regulations on eligibility, sport seasons, limits of participation, penalties for violation of regulations, state tournament authorization, and sanctioning of contests. The amendment process is derived from the local educational leaders for interscholastic athletics and ratified by the State Board of Education. House Bill 343 has the ability to complicate all sections of COMAR by focusing on one sport offering.

To maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association and allow us to advocate for our student athletes, we ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEA's and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Sincerely,

The 24 Maryland High School Local Educational Agency Athletic Supervisors

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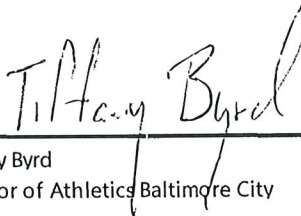
Michael Sye
MPSSAA President/Director of Athletics Balti...

X **Dr. Jeffrey Sullivan**

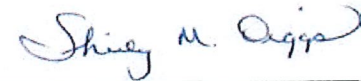
Dr. Jeffrey Sullivan
MPSSAA President-Elect/Director of
Athletics...

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Michael Duffy
MPSSAA Past-President/Supervisor of Athleti...

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Tiffany Byrd
Director of Athletics Baltimore City

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Shirley Diggins
Coordinating Supervisor of Athletics Prince ...

X **Clayton Culp**

Clayton Culp
Coordinator of Athletics Anne Arundle Cou...

X **John Davis**

John Davis
Coordinator of Athletics Howard County

X **Deborah Basler**

Deborah Basler
Supervisor of Athletics Harford County

X Kevin Kendro

Kevin Kendro
Supervisor of Athletics Fredrick County

X Tracey Leonard

Tracey Leonard
Supervisor of Athletics Alleqany County

X Kevin Hook

Kevin Hook, J.D.
Supervisor of Athletics Calvert County

X Jon Marketto

Jon Marketto
Supervisor of Athletics Caroline County

X Amy Sexton

Amy Sexton
Coordinator of Athletics Cecil County

X Steve Lee

Steve Lee
Coordinator of Student Activities Charles Co...

X Dr. Derek Sabedra

Dr. Derek Sabedra
Supervisor of Athletics Dorchester County

X Paul Edwards

Paul Edwards
Supervisor of Athletics Garrett County

X Kevin Taylor

Kevin Taylor
Supervisor of Athletics Kent County

X Sidney Pinder

Sidney Pinder
Chief Operating Officer Queen Anne's County

X Michael A. Watson
Michael A. Watson
Director of Athletics St. Mary's County

X Cortney Monar
Cortney Monar
Supervisor of Athletics Somerset County

X *Kurisha Hoffman*
Kurisha Hoffman
Supervisor of Athletics Talbot County

X Eric Michael
Eric Michael
Supervisor of Athletics Washington County

X Bryan Ashby
Bryan D. Ashby
Supervisor of Athletics Wicomico County

X Sam Slacum
Sam Slacum
Coordinator of Athletics Worcester County