

Dear Representative,

As an athletic administrator of Wicomico County Public Schools, **I am writing to ask you to oppose 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.

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 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.

In order to maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association, 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,

Irwin Schtierman , CMAA
Athletic Director
Wicomico High School
Wicomico County Public Schools