



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 21, 2024

Committee: House Government & Operations

Bill: HB 686 - Youth Sports Programs - Venue-Specific Emergency Action Plans - Requirements

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) respectfully opposes House Bill 686.

This bill would require a youth sports program, including those operated by municipalities, to develop venue-specific and very thorough action plans for every facility used. Every member of the coaching staff for each sport would have to practice these plans in-person before each season. Every coaching staff member would also need to be trained in first aid, including in the use of a defibrillator, which must be available for every practice and event.

While we respect the intent to keep our youth safe and healthy while engaged in sports programs, these requirements would be costly and burdensome. Every provision would make it more difficult and expensive to operate youth sports programs, which means local governments would have to significantly scale back these programs. Municipalities value our youth's health and safety but cannot accommodate the requirements proposed.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 686 with an unfavorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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