

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 412
Ways and Means

(Delegate Morhaim, *et al.*)

Education - Sports Programs - Mouthguards

This bill requires any entity sponsoring sports programs for children ages 5 through 18 to recommend that children participating in specific sports wear mouthguards during play. A child may participate in the sports while not wearing a mouthguard if the parent or guardian of the child signs a written waiver of liability for oral-facial injuries. An entity sponsoring a sports program may require all participating children to wear mouthguards.

The bill is effective July 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Any increase in school expenditures for student mouthguards could be met with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The use of mouthguards by children ages 5 through 18 is not required. In general, current safety practices and policies require or encourage students to use mouthguards while participating in sports that may involve contact.

Local Fiscal Effect: The majority of students who participate in school sports programs provide their own mouthguards. Current practice in schools is to provide mouthguards for students who cannot afford them. The cost per mouthguard is approximately \$1.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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lsc/hlb

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