
By: **Delegate Owings (By Request)**
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2003
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Pole Vaulting - Helmets**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a sponsoring entity of a pole vaulting competition or
4 practice session to recommend that certain children wear a certain helmet
5 during certain times; providing for a waiver process to exempt certain children
6 from wearing a helmet under certain circumstances; requiring that the waiver
7 form be approved by the sponsoring entity of the pole vaulting competition or
8 practice session; requiring certain children to wear certain helmets under
9 certain circumstances; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the
10 wearing of helmets by certain children during pole vaulting events.

11 BY adding to
12 Article - Education
13 Section 7-420
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Education**

19 7-420.

20 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "POLE VAULTING" MEANS AN ACTIVITY THAT IS
21 ORGANIZED FOR INTRAMURAL, INTERSCHOLASTIC, RECREATIONAL, OR
22 COMPETITIVE PURPOSES FOR CHILDREN AGES 5 THROUGH 18 YEARS OLD,
23 INCLUSIVE, THAT INVOLVES JUMPING OVER A HIGH CROSSBAR WITH THE AID OF A
24 LONG POLE AND IS SPONSORED BY:

- 25 (1) A PUBLIC SCHOOL;
- 26 (2) A NONPUBLIC ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL;
- 27 (3) ANY UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT; OR

1 (4) ANY PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SPONSORING A POLE VAULTING
2 COMPETITION IN THE STATE.

3 (B) THE SPONSORING ENTITY OF A POLE VAULTING COMPETITION OR
4 PRACTICE SESSION SHALL RECOMMEND THAT EACH CHILD PARTICIPATING IN A
5 POLE VAULTING EVENT WEAR A PROPER FITTING HELMET DURING COMPETITION
6 AND PRACTICE SESSIONS.

7 (C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, A CHILD
8 MAY PARTICIPATE IN A POLE VAULTING COMPETITION OR PRACTICE SESSION WHILE
9 NOT WEARING A HELMET IF THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF THAT CHILD SIGNS A
10 WRITTEN WAIVER OF LIABILITY FOR ANY INJURIES RESULTING FROM
11 PARTICIPATION IN A POLE VAULTING EVENT.

12 (2) THE WAIVER UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE ON A FORM
13 APPROVED BY THE SPONSORING ENTITY OF THE POLE VAULTING COMPETITION OR
14 PRACTICE SESSIONS.

15 (D) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF THE
16 RULES OF THE SPONSORING ENTITY OF A POLE VAULTING COMPETITION REQUIRE A
17 PARTICIPATING CHILD TO WEAR A HELMET TO PARTICIPATE IN A POLE VAULTING
18 COMPETITION, THE CHILD SHALL WEAR A HELMET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
19 RULES OF THE SPONSORING ENTITY.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 July 1, 2003.