

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 745 (Delegate Owings)
(By Request)

Health and Government Operations

Education - Pole Vaulting - Helmets

This bill requires the sponsoring entity of a pole vaulting competition or practice session to recommend that each participating child wear a helmet. A child may participate in a pole vaulting competition or practice session without a helmet if: (1) the child's parent or guardian signs a written waiver of liability for any injuries; and (2) the rules of the sponsoring entity do not require participants to wear helmets.

The bill is effective July 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The purchase of equipment for school-sponsored athletics is a local school system responsibility. Any increase in athletic equipment purchases in public schools that sponsor pole vaulting would be minimal and absorbable within existing athletic budgets.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) regulates athletics in Maryland public schools. Local school systems may adopt policies that are more restrictive than the ones set by MPSSAA.

Background: The Maryland State Department of Education advises that manufacturers do not make helmets specifically designed for pole vaulting.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2003
lc/hlb

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