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By: **Delegate Cardin (By Request)**  
Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2004  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Approved Gear and Equipment - Youth Baseball**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring individuals under a certain age to use certain approved  
4 gear and equipment in order to participate in certain baseball games or  
5 practices; phasing in the requirements over a certain number of years; requiring  
6 the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt certain regulations;  
7 providing for the issuance of a warning; defining certain terms; and generally  
8 relating to the use of approved gear and equipment by individuals participating  
9 in youth baseball.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Health - General  
12 Section 24-1101 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 11. Approved Gear and  
13 Equipment for Youth Baseball"  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

18 **Article - Health - General**

19 SUBTITLE 11. APPROVED GEAR AND EQUIPMENT FOR YOUTH BASEBALL.

20 24-1101.

21 (A) (1) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
22 INDICATED.

23 (2) "APPROVED GEAR AND EQUIPMENT" MEANS PROTECTIVE EYE, HEAD,  
24 AND BODY GEAR AND ALL OTHER BASEBALL EQUIPMENT THAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS  
25 THE STANDARDS SET BY:

26 (I) THE AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE;

- 1 (II) THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TESTING AND MEASUREMENT;  
2 (III) THE SNELL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION;  
3 (IV) THE NATIONAL OPERATING COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS FOR  
4 ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT;  
5 (V) THE PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR CERTIFICATION COUNCIL; OR  
6 (VI) ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION THAT THE SECRETARY  
7 DESIGNATES FOR THIS PURPOSE.

8 (3) "YOUTH BASEBALL" MEANS ANY BASEBALL GAME OR PRACTICE:

- 9 (I) PLAYED BY INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF 17 YEARS;  
10 (II) SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT; AND  
11 (III) COORDINATED BY A LEAGUE OR ORGANIZATION.

12 (B) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS CONSISTENT WITH THIS  
13 SUBTITLE THAT DESIGNATE THE TYPES OF APPROVED GEAR AND EQUIPMENT THAT  
14 ARE APPROPRIATE FOR EACH BASEBALL POSITION.

15 (C) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005, EACH INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE AGE OF 9  
16 YEARS ON A YOUTH BASEBALL TEAM SHALL USE APPROVED GEAR AND EQUIPMENT  
17 IN ORDER FOR THE TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN A BASEBALL GAME OR PRACTICE.

18 (2) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006, EACH INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE AGE OF 12  
19 YEARS ON A YOUTH BASEBALL TEAM SHALL USE APPROVED GEAR AND EQUIPMENT  
20 IN ORDER FOR THE TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN A BASEBALL GAME OR PRACTICE.

21 (3) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007, EACH INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE AGE OF 15  
22 YEARS ON A YOUTH BASEBALL TEAM SHALL USE APPROVED GEAR AND EQUIPMENT  
23 IN ORDER FOR THE TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN A BASEBALL GAME OR PRACTICE.

24 (4) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, AN  
25 INDIVIDUAL ON A YOUTH BASEBALL TEAM SHALL USE APPROVED GEAR AND  
26 EQUIPMENT IN ORDER FOR THE TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN A BASEBALL GAME OR  
27 PRACTICE.

28 (D) THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE ENFORCED BY THE ISSUANCE OF A WARNING  
29 THAT INFORMS THE OFFENDER OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE AND  
30 PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ABOUT APPROVED GEAR AND EQUIPMENT  
31 USE.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
33 effect July 1, 2004.