

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1322 (Delegate Rosenberg)
Health and Government Operations

Medical Advisory Committee on Physical Evaluations for Student Athletes

This bill establishes a 17-member Medical Advisory Committee on Physical Evaluations for Student Athletes. The committee must advise the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) on the content and use of a pre-participation physical evaluation form and review pre-participation physical evaluation procedures at least every three years. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE could appoint members to the advisory committee, participate in committee meetings, and adopt regulations with existing resources.

Local Effect: Local school employees appointed to the advisory committee could participate with the existing resources of their local school systems.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A student must be examined and certified as being physically fit to participate in any try-out, practice, or contest of a school team. The examination must be performed by a licensed physician, a certified physician assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician, or a certified nurse practitioner.

Background: The preamble to the bill cites a December 2003 article in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology that reported that teens and young adults who

regularly train and compete in sports are more than twice as likely to experience sudden death than non-athletes. The preamble also suggests that existing practices for pre-participation physicals may not be thorough enough to detect potential heart problems that may lead to sudden death in athletes.

MSDE advises that MPSSAA, through standing committees, currently serves in an advisory capacity regarding physical evaluations.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2004
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