

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 841 (Delegate Myers, *et al.*)
Ways and Means

Public Secondary Schools - Fall Sports Season - Practice Sessions

This bill provides that a practice session for the fall sports season for a public high school student may not begin more than 14 days before the first day of the school year. The bill only applies to public secondary schools that are members of the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA).

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is directed at local high schools and would not affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill would not materially affect local school expenditures.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: By regulation, the fall sports season begins August 15 and ends on the final date of the county, conference, district, regional, or State tournament. When August 15 falls on a Sunday, practice for a fall sport begins the preceding Saturday. An MPSSAA member school may not participate in a regularly scheduled game until at least 20 days after the first day of practice.

Background: MPSSAA advises that the August 15 start date for fall sports is established to standardize sports schedules across the State and notes that, in fall 2007,

school systems began classes over a three-week span, as determined by each local board of education. According to MPSSAA, having the August 15 start date also helps to minimize overlap between the sports seasons. Every public high school in the State is a member of MPSSAA.

Local Expenditures: The bill would allow practices for the fall sports seasons to start earlier in school systems that begin the academic year before August 29 and would require practices for the fall sports seasons to start later for school systems that begin the academic year after August 29. It is assumed that local school expenditures for coaches and other costs related to high school athletic programs would not be noticeably altered as a result of the bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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mcp/mwc

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