

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 669 (Delegate Carter, *et al.*)
Ways and Means

Baltimore City - City-Poly Annual High School Football Game - Thanksgiving Day

This bill requires the State Board of Education to allow the annual Baltimore City College and Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, or “City-Poly” football game to be scheduled on Thanksgiving Day, on request of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. The State board is authorized to adopt regulations necessary to implement the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The State Board of Education can adopt regulations with existing resources.

Local Effect: None. The bill authorizes, but does not require a change in current practice.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Baltimore City Public School System began participating under the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) in 1993, making Baltimore City public schools eligible for participation in State football tournament play, including the State championship. However, the traditional Thanksgiving Day date for the City-Poly football game has to this point conflicted with the MPSSAA football tournament schedule. As a result, the

regular season game between the two schools has not been scheduled as late in the year as Thanksgiving Day.

The MPSSAA football points system determines which teams from each region make the MPSSAA State tournament. At the end of the regular season, the top four teams in each region compete in a single elimination tournament, with the regional winner advancing to the State playoffs. The points system gives a team points for a win as well as bonus points based on the record of, and number of games played by, a team it defeats.

A school's participation in the regional and State football tournaments is optional. State regulations require MPSSAA school athletic schedules to be established before the first contest of each sport's season and that the regular football season consists of up to 10 games; with no more than 1 game played by a team in a week. Some teams play a 9-game season, others a 10-game season.

In 2010, regional tournament games were held on November 12, 13, 19, and 20 and State tournament games were held on November 26 (the day following Thanksgiving) and 27, and December 2 through 4. The winter season which includes basketball, indoor track, swimming, and wrestling begins November 15 of each year. Some students participate in football as well as a winter sport. According to recent reports from the *Baltimore Sun*, the annual City-Poly high school football game has been played for over 100 years.

If the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners requests that the annual City-Poly football game be scheduled for Thanksgiving Day, further decisions and regulations regarding the participation of the two teams in the State tournament, the scheduling of the State tournament, and the rules governing the points system may be necessary.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): *Baltimore Sun*, Baltimore City, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/hlb

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