

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 257

(Senator Colburn)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Education - Talbot County - Participation in High School Athletic Programs

This bill allows a student, who resides in the geographical attendance area of one public secondary school in Talbot County, to participate in an interscholastic athletic activity at another public secondary school in the county if that athletic activity is not offered at the student's school. If the public secondary school that offers the athletic activity is not at capacity, the student must transfer to that school to participate in the athletic activity. If the public secondary school that offers the athletic activity is at capacity, the student may participate in the athletic activity without transferring schools.

A student's participation in an interscholastic athletic activity at another public secondary school in the county may change the classification of either school under regulations and policies of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA). A parent or guardian of a student who participates in an interscholastic activity at another public secondary school in the county must provide transportation to the other school at the expense of the parent or guardian. The county board may not be required to pay for or provide transportation for the student to the other school.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Talbot County public school expenditures will not be affected by allowing a student to participate in an athletic activity at a different high school when the activity is not offered at the student's original high school.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: According to the Code of Maryland Regulations, to participate in interscholastic athletics a student must be officially registered and attending a school that is a member of MPSSAA. Students may only represent the school in which they are registered and at which it is anticipated they will complete their graduation requirements. Ninth grade students who reside in the attendance area of a high school that includes grades 10 through 12 may participate in the interscholastic program of that high school. Students who legally transfer to another school through a change of residence or another action approved by the local superintendent of schools may participate in interscholastic athletics.

Background: Talbot County has two high schools: Easton High School, with 1,163 students, is classified by MPSSAA as a 2A school and St. Michaels Middle-High School, with 252 high school students, is classified as a 1A school. MPSSAA classifies schools using enrollment numbers. If the two Talbot County high schools were counted as one during the 2011-2012 school year, they would be classified as a 3A school. According to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), football, cross country, cheerleading, volleyball, indoor track, swimming, ice hockey, lacrosse (girls and boys), and track and field are offered as interscholastic athletic activities at Easton High School but not at St. Michaels High School.

MPSSAA's goal is to promote, direct, and regulate interscholastic athletics of the public high schools and ensure a safe and educationally balanced athletic program. It derives its authority from MSDE and the 24 local school systems. Currently, MPSSAA includes 195 public high schools, with over 114,000 student athletes participating in 24 sports.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 185 (Delegates Haddaway-Riccio and Eckardt) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 31, 2012
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