

SENATE BILL 1178

P1

8lr3982
CF HB 1298

By: **Senator Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2018

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Months – Maryland Sportsmanship**
3 **Month**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain month as
5 Maryland Sportsmanship Month; requiring the proclamation to urge local recreation
6 and parks departments to observe Maryland Sportsmanship Month with certain
7 programs, ceremonies, and activities; specifying certain examples of appropriate
8 programs, ceremonies, and activities; and generally relating to Maryland
9 Sportsmanship Month.

10 BY renumbering

11 Article – General Provisions
12 Section 7–503 through 7–506, respectively
13 to be Section 7–504 through 7–507, respectively
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2014 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

16 BY adding to

17 Article – General Provisions
18 Section 7–503
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2014 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

21 Preamble

22 WHEREAS, Sports can be a vehicle for physical fitness and positive personal growth;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Those involved in sports, including coaches, players, and fans at all
25 levels, should promote good sportsmanship and foster the development of positive
26 characteristics in all individuals; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Players will have an equal opportunity to strive for success and can
2 trust that they will be treated with dignity; and

3 WHEREAS, Elements of sportsmanship reflect crucial life skills that will help
4 players thrive throughout elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education; and

5 WHEREAS, A strong sense of character and collaboration can also prepare athletes
6 for the workplace; and

7 WHEREAS, Sportsmanship can combat bullying and promote inclusion by providing
8 a safe and healthy environment where players value respect, fairness, integrity,
9 responsibility, and perseverance; and

10 WHEREAS, Respect is treating others the way you want to be treated, tolerating
11 differences, considering the feelings of others, dealing peacefully with anger, insults, and
12 disagreements, and taking care of the environment; and

13 WHEREAS, Fairness is playing by the rules, being open-minded, listening to others,
14 not taking advantage of others, and taking personal responsibility for mistakes; and

15 WHEREAS, Integrity is playing with honor, being humble in victory and graceful in
16 defeat, being truthful and trustworthy, having the courage to do the right thing, being
17 reliable, building a good reputation, and being loyal to your team and coaches; and

18 WHEREAS, Responsibility is doing what is expected of you, being self-disciplined,
19 thinking before you act, considering the consequences of your actions, and being
20 accountable for your choices; and

21 WHEREAS, Perseverance is always doing your best, demonstrating a positive
22 attitude, and never giving up; and

23 WHEREAS, Fostering these qualities on the playing field can prevent harassment
24 and reduce incidents of concussions and other injuries; and

25 WHEREAS, Those who demonstrate sportsmanship are invaluable because they
26 create a domino effect by setting a positive tone for others to emulate in their schools and
27 communities; and

28 WHEREAS, A positive tone can increase the rankings of our schools, enhance the
29 atmosphere of our municipalities, and serve as a conduit for economic development,
30 drawing businesses to our State; and

31 WHEREAS, A number of local recreation and parks departments across the State
32 have successfully implemented sportsmanship months at the local level; and

33 WHEREAS, It is critical that good sportsmanship be developed and recognized in

1 order to ensure a quality sports environment for all involved; now, therefore,

2 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
3 That Section(s) 7-503 through 7-506, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the
4 Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-504 through 7-507,
5 respectively.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
7 as follows:

8 **Article – General Provisions**

9 **7-503.**

10 (A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MARCH
11 AS MARYLAND SPORTSMANSHIP MONTH.

12 (B) (1) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE LOCAL RECREATION AND
13 PARKS DEPARTMENTS IN THE STATE TO OBSERVE MARYLAND SPORTSMANSHIP
14 MONTH PROPERLY WITH APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS, CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES.

15 (2) APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS, CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES MAY
16 INCLUDE:

17 (I) RECOGNITION OF PLAYERS, PARENTS, COACHES, AND
18 VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED EXEMPLARY SPORTSMANSHIP IN LOCAL
19 ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES;

20 (II) SKILL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS FOR PLAYERS;

21 (III) CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING SESSIONS FOR COACHES;

22 AND

23 (IV) RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS AND
24 PARENT COMMITMENTS THAT ARE KEY TO PROVIDING EVERY CHILD A CHANCE TO
25 EXPERIENCE SPORTS.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2018.