A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission

FOR the purpose of establishing the Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Commission to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Commission to submit a certain report to the Governor, the State Board of Education, the Maryland Department of Health, and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission.

(b) The Commission consists of the following members:

1. one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
2. one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
3. the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent’s designee;
4. the following members who have experience with youth sports safety or treating youth sports injuries, appointed by the Governor on or before July 31, 2020:
(i) one representative of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics;
(ii) one representative of the Maryland Academy of Family Physicians;
(iii) one representative of the Society of Pediatric Psychology;
(iv) one representative of the Maryland Psychological Association;
(v) one representative of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology;
(vi) one representative of the Maryland Athletic Trainers Association;
(vii) one representative of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association who is a coach;
(viii) one representative of the Maryland Board of Football Officials;
(ix) one representative of the Medical Mutual Liability Insurance Society of Maryland who is a risk management specialist;
(x) one pediatrician or family medicine practitioner;
(xi) one orthopedist;
(xii) one emergency medicine physician who treats pediatric patients;
(xiii) one pediatric cardiologist;
(xiv) one public health epidemiologist; and
(xv) one physical therapist.

(c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.

(d) The Maryland Department of Health shall provide staff for the Commission.

(e) A member of the Commission:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations as provided in the State budget.
(f) The Commission shall:

1. study evidence–based policies and practices for maximizing safety for youth athletes at different age levels and stages of brain development based on national research;

2. seek input from nationally recognized youth sports oversight organizations, including US Youth Soccer, USA Cheer, US Lacrosse, and USA Football;

3. study ways to reduce injury risk levels to youth athletes at different ages; and

4. make recommendations for implementation of evidence–based best practices for minimizing injury risk for youth athletes.

(g) On or before December 31, 2020, the Commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education, the Maryland Department of Health, and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.