

# HOUSE BILL 1569

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By: **Delegate Hill**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2020

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public School and Youth Sports Programs – Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a certain youth athlete from returning to play until certain  
4 events occur; limiting a certain football season to certain months of the year;  
5 prohibiting a county board of education, school, or youth sports program from  
6 offering, approving, or sponsoring football or certain physical activities related to  
7 football during certain months of the year; requiring a certain youth athlete to use  
8 certain equipment when participating in certain sports; limiting the number of  
9 certain types of practices for football for certain youth athletes; prohibiting a youth  
10 athlete from engaging in certain activities while participating in certain sports;  
11 limiting the types of contact certain youth athletes may engage in for a certain sport;  
12 authorizing certain youth athletes to participate only in certain sports or activities;  
13 defining certain terms; making conforming changes; and generally relating to public  
14 school and youth sports programs.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Education

17 Section 7–433.1

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

21 Article – Health – General

22 Section 14–501

23 Annotated Code of Maryland

24 (2019 Replacement Volume)

25 BY adding to

26 Article – Health – General

27 Section 14–502 and 14–503

28 Annotated Code of Maryland

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2019 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Education**

**7-433.1.**

**(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

**(2) “FOOTBALL” MEANS TACKLE FOOTBALL THAT IS PLAYED BY A STUDENT IN AN ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL DURING:**

**(I) A COACH-SUPERVISED, SCHOOL-APPROVED, SPORTS- OR CONDITIONING-RELATED ACTIVITY;**

**(II) AN INTRAMURAL ATHLETIC ACTIVITY;**

**(III) AN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITY; OR**

**(IV) A PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

**(3) “FOOTBALL SEASON” MEANS THE TIME PERIOD EACH YEAR IN WHICH FOOTBALL MAY BE PLAYED BY A STUDENT OR MADE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS BY A SCHOOL OR COUNTY BOARD, INCLUDING PRESEASON PRACTICES, REGULAR SEASON PRACTICES, TOURNAMENTS, AND PLAYOFF GAMES.**

**(B) EACH ANNUAL FOOTBALL SEASON SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE MONTHS OF AUGUST THROUGH DECEMBER.**

**(C) A COUNTY BOARD OR SCHOOL MAY NOT OFFER, APPROVE, OR SPONSOR FOOTBALL OR ANY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RELATED TO FOOTBALL FOR STUDENTS DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY THROUGH JULY.**

**Article – Health – General**

**14-501.**

**(a) [(1)] In this [section] SUBTITLE the following words have the meanings indicated.**

**[(2)] (B) “Concussion” means a traumatic injury to the brain causing an**

1 immediate and, usually, short-lived change in mental status or an alteration of normal  
2 consciousness resulting from:

3                    [(i)] (1)        A fall;

4                    [(ii)] (2)        A violent blow to the head or body; or

5                    [(iii)] (3)        The shaking or spinning of the head or body.

6            (C)    “SEASON” MEANS THE TIME PERIOD EACH YEAR IN WHICH AN ATHLETIC  
7 ACTIVITY RELATED TO A SPORT IS PLAYED BY YOUTH ATHLETES OR MADE  
8 AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH ATHLETES BY A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM, INCLUDING  
9 TRAINING SESSIONS, PRACTICES, GAMES, AND TOURNAMENTS.

10                   [(3)] (D)        “Sudden cardiac arrest” means a condition in which the heart  
11 suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating.

12                   [(4)] (E)        “Youth athlete” means an individual who participates in an  
13 athletic activity in association with a youth sports program conducted:

14                   [(i)] (1)        At a public **OR PRIVATE** school facility; or

15                   [(ii)] (2)        By a recreational athletic organization.

16                   [(5)] (F)        “Youth sports program” means a program organized for  
17 recreational athletic competition or instruction for participants who are under the age of  
18 19 years.

19    **14-502.**

20                   [(b)] (A)        (1)    A youth sports program shall make available information on  
21 concussions, head injuries, and sudden cardiac arrest developed by the State Department  
22 of Education under §§ 7-433 and 7-436 of the Education Article to coaches, youth athletes,  
23 and the parents or guardians of youth athletes.

24                   (2)    A coach of a youth sports program shall review the information provided  
25 in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

26                   [(c)] (B)        (1)    A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or  
27 other head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from play at that time.

28                   (2)    A youth athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play  
29 until the youth athlete has [obtained]:

30                   (I)    **OBTAINED** written clearance from a licensed health care

1 provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions; AND

2 (II) BEEN CLEARED TO RETURN TO FULL ACADEMIC  
3 PARTICIPATION AT HIS OR HER REGULAR SCHOOL.

4 [(d)] (C) Before a youth sports program may use a facility owned or operated by  
5 a local government, the local government shall provide notice to the youth sports program  
6 of the requirements of this section.

7 14-503.

8 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A YOUTH ATHLETE WHO IS BELOW THE  
9 HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL OF PLAY.

10 (B) (1) EACH ANNUAL FOOTBALL SEASON SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE  
11 MONTHS OF AUGUST THROUGH DECEMBER.

12 (2) A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM MAY NOT OFFER, APPROVE, OR  
13 SPONSOR FOOTBALL OR ANY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RELATED TO FOOTBALL FOR  
14 YOUTH ATHLETES DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY THROUGH JULY.

15 (C) A YOUTH ATHLETE SHALL USE THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT WHILE  
16 PARTICIPATING IN A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM:

17 (1) FOR LACROSSE, HOCKEY, RUGBY, AND FOOTBALL, PROPER EYE  
18 PROTECTION, HEADGEAR, AND MOUTH GEAR THAT IS SIZE-APPROPRIATE,  
19 REGARDLESS OF GENDER, AS DEFINED BY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RULES; AND

20 (2) FOR GYMNASTICS, WHILE USING APPARATUS, PROPER MOUTH  
21 GEAR.

22 (D) A YOUTH ATHLETE PARTICIPATING IN TACKLE FOOTBALL MAY  
23 PARTICIPATE IN A FULL-CONTACT PRACTICE FOR ONLY 15 MINUTES EACH  
24 PRACTICE FOR A MAXIMUM OF:

25 (1) 30 MINUTES EACH WEEK DURING THE PRESEASON; AND

26 (2) 15 MINUTES EACH WEEK DURING THE SEASON.

27 (E) A YOUTH ATHLETE WHO PARTICIPATES IN CHEERLEADING MAY NOT  
28 ENGAGE IN:

29 (1) ANY STUNTING OR TUMBLING UNLESS THE YOUTH ATHLETE IS  
30 UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF AN ADULT WHO IS TRAINED IN USA CHEER

1 SAFETY;

2 (2) FOR YOUTH ATHLETES UNDER THE AGE OF 14 YEARS, BASKET,  
3 ELEVATOR, OR SPONGE TOSSES; OR

4 (3) FOR YOUTH ATHLETES UNDER THE AGE OF 10 YEARS, ANY AERIAL  
5 RELEASE SKILL.

6 (F) A YOUTH ATHLETE PARTICIPATING IN HOCKEY OR LACROSSE MAY NOT  
7 ENGAGE IN BODY CHECKING, AS DEFINED BY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RULES.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
9 1, 2020.