

# SENATE BILL 951

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2lr3123

CF HB 515

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By: Senator Hettleman

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2022

Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Student Athletes – Uniform Modifications for Modesty**  
3 **(Inclusive Athletic Attire Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring county boards of education, the Maryland Public Secondary  
5 Schools Athletic Association, governing bodies of public institutions of higher  
6 education, and boards of community college trustees to allow student athletes to  
7 modify an athletic or team uniform to make the attire more modest to conform to the  
8 requirements or preferences of the student athlete's religion or culture; and generally  
9 relating to modifying athletic or team uniforms of student athletes.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Education

12 Section 7–129, 15–134, and 16–110

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 **7–129.**

19 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “STUDENT ATHLETE” MEANS A STUDENT ENROLLED**  
20 **IN A HIGH SCHOOL WHO PARTICIPATES IN A HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM**  
21 **THAT IS A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC**  
22 **ASSOCIATION.**

23 **(B) (1) A COUNTY BOARD AND THE MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY**  
24 **SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION SHALL ALLOW A STUDENT ATHLETE TO MODIFY**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 THE ATHLETIC OR TEAM UNIFORM OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE IN A MANNER THAT  
2 MAKES THE STUDENT ATHLETE'S ATTIRE MORE MODEST TO CONFORM TO THE  
3 REQUIREMENTS OR PREFERENCES OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE'S RELIGION OR  
4 CULTURE.

5 (2) A STUDENT ATHLETE MAY NOT BE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE  
6 APPROVAL FROM A COACH, A TEACHER, A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR, OR THE  
7 COUNTY BOARD BEFORE MAKING THE UNIFORM MODIFICATION.

8 (C) (1) A MODIFICATION TO AN ATHLETIC OR TEAM UNIFORM MAY  
9 INCLUDE THE WEARING OF:

10 (I) A HEAD COVERING WORN FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS,  
11 INCLUDING A MUSLIM HIJAB, JEWISH KIPPAH, OR SIKH DASTAR;

12 (II) AN UNDERSHIRT; OR

13 (III) LEGGINGS.

14 (2) A MODIFICATION TO AN ATHLETIC OR TEAM UNIFORM MAY NOT:

15 (I) INTERFERE WITH THE MOVEMENT OF THE STUDENT  
16 ATHLETE; OR

17 (II) POSE A SAFETY HAZARD TO THE STUDENT ATHLETE, OTHER  
18 STUDENT ATHLETES, OR OTHERS.

19 (3) A STUDENT ATHLETE MAY MODIFY THE UNIFORM HEADGEAR IF  
20 THE MODIFIED HEADGEAR:

21 (I) IS BLACK, WHITE, THE PREDOMINANT COLOR OF THE  
22 UNIFORM, OR THE SAME COLOR AS THAT WORN BY ALL PLAYERS ON THE TEAM;

23 (II) DOES NOT COVER ANY PART OF THE FACE, UNLESS  
24 REQUIRED FOR THE SAFETY OF THE Wearer;

25 (III) IS NOT DANGEROUS TO THE STUDENT ATHLETE, OTHER  
26 STUDENT ATHLETES, OR OTHERS;

27 (IV) DOES NOT HAVE OPENING OR CLOSING ELEMENTS AROUND  
28 THE FACE OR NECK; AND

29 (V) DOES NOT HAVE PARTS PROTRUDING FROM ITS SURFACE.

1       (D) (1) A STUDENT ATHLETE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COSTS  
2 ASSOCIATED WITH THE MODIFICATION OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE'S ATHLETIC OR  
3 TEAM UNIFORM UNDER THIS SECTION.

4               (2) THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT A  
5 PUBLIC SCHOOL FROM PROVIDING THE UNIFORM MODIFICATION TO THE STUDENT.

6 15-134.

7       (A) IN THIS SECTION, "STUDENT ATHLETE" MEANS A STUDENT ENROLLED  
8 AT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHO PARTICIPATES IN AN  
9 INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTION.

10       (B) (1) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
11 EDUCATION SHALL ALLOW A STUDENT ATHLETE TO MODIFY THE ATHLETIC OR TEAM  
12 UNIFORM OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE IN A MANNER THAT MAKES THE STUDENT  
13 ATHLETE'S ATTIRE MORE MODEST TO CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OR  
14 PREFERENCES OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE'S RELIGION OR CULTURE.

15       (2) A STUDENT ATHLETE MAY NOT BE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE  
16 APPROVAL FROM A COACH, AN ADMINISTRATOR, OR THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
17 PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION BEFORE MAKING THE UNIFORM  
18 MODIFICATION.

19       (C) (1) A MODIFICATION TO AN ATHLETIC OR TEAM UNIFORM MAY  
20 INCLUDE THE WEARING OF:

21               (I) A HEAD COVERING WORN FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS,  
22 INCLUDING A MUSLIM HIJAB, JEWISH KIPPAH, OR SIKH DASTAR;

23               (II) AN UNDERSHIRT; OR

24               (III) LEGGINGS.

25       (2) A MODIFICATION TO AN ATHLETIC OR TEAM UNIFORM MAY NOT:

26               (I) INTERFERE WITH THE MOVEMENT OF THE STUDENT  
27 ATHLETE; OR

28               (II) POSE A SAFETY HAZARD TO THE STUDENT ATHLETE, OTHER  
29 STUDENT ATHLETES, OR OTHERS.

3 (I) IS BLACK, WHITE, THE PREDOMINANT COLOR OF THE  
4 UNIFORM, OR THE SAME COLOR AS THAT WORN BY ALL PLAYERS ON THE TEAM;

5 (II) DOES NOT COVER ANY PART OF THE FACE, UNLESS  
6 REQUIRED FOR THE SAFETY OF THE WEARER;

7 (III) IS NOT DANGEROUS TO THE STUDENT ATHLETE, OTHER  
8 STUDENT ATHLETES, OR OTHERS;

9 (IV) DOES NOT HAVE OPENING OR CLOSING ELEMENTS AROUND  
10 THE FACE OR NECK; AND

**(v) DOES NOT HAVE PARTS PROTRUDING FROM ITS SURFACE.**

12 (D) (1) A STUDENT ATHLETE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COSTS  
13 ASSOCIATED WITH THE MODIFICATION OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE'S ATHLETIC OR  
14 TEAM UNIFORM UNDER THIS SECTION.

18 16-110.

19                   (A) IN THIS SECTION, "STUDENT ATHLETE" MEANS A STUDENT ENROLLED  
20 AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE WHO PARTICIPATES IN AN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC  
21 PROGRAM AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

22 (B) (1) THE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES AT A  
23 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL ALLOW A STUDENT ATHLETE TO MODIFY THE  
24 ATHLETIC OR TEAM UNIFORM OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE IN A MANNER THAT MAKES  
25 THE STUDENT ATHLETE'S ATTIRE MORE MODEST TO CONFORM TO THE  
26 REQUIREMENTS OR PREFERENCES OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE'S RELIGION OR  
27 CULTURE.

1           (c) (1) A MODIFICATION TO AN ATHLETIC OR TEAM UNIFORM MAY  
2 INCLUDE THE WEARING OF:

(I) A HEAD COVERING WORN FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS,  
INCLUDING A MUSLIM HIJAB, JEWISH KIPPAH, OR SIKH DASTAR;

5 (II) AN UNDERSHIRT; OR

### 6 (III) LEGGINGS.

**(2) A MODIFICATION TO AN ATHLETIC OR TEAM UNIFORM MAY NOT:**

8 (I) INTERFERE WITH THE MOVEMENT OF THE STUDENT  
9 ATHLETE; OR

14 (I) IS BLACK, WHITE, THE PREDOMINANT COLOR OF THE  
15 UNIFORM, OR THE SAME COLOR AS THAT WORN BY ALL PLAYERS ON THE TEAM;

16 (II) DOES NOT COVER ANY PART OF THE FACE, UNLESS  
17 REQUIRED FOR THE SAFETY OF THE Wearer;

18 (III) IS NOT DANGEROUS TO THE STUDENT ATHLETE, OTHER  
19 STUDENT ATHLETES, OR OTHERS;

20 (IV) DOES NOT HAVE OPENING OR CLOSING ELEMENTS AROUND  
21 THE FACE OR NECK; AND

22 (v) DOES NOT HAVE PARTS PROTRUDING FROM ITS SURFACE.

23 (D) (1) A STUDENT ATHLETE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COSTS  
24 ASSOCIATED WITH THE MODIFICATION OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE'S ATHLETIC OR  
25 TEAM UNIFORM UNDER THIS SECTION.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
2    1, 2022.