

Chapter 219

(House Bill 971)

AN ACT concerning

Public Schools Washington County – Interscholastic Athletics – Student Eligibility Waiver and School Classification

FOR the purpose of authorizing ~~a county board of education~~ the Washington County Board of Education to waive a certain eligibility requirement for participation in interscholastic athletics at a certain Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association member school for students who attend certain public high schools; requiring ~~a county superintendent of schools~~ the Washington County Superintendent of Schools to report to the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association the school enrollment of certain schools in a certain manner; and generally relating to interscholastic athletics at public schools in Washington County.

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section ~~7-135~~ 4-142
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

~~7-135.~~ 4-142.

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

(2) “MEMBER SCHOOL” MEANS A PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT IS A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

(3) “ZONED HIGH SCHOOL” MEANS THE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL THAT A STUDENT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND UNDER THE REGULATIONS OF THE COUNTY BOARD.

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

(C) FOR A STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL UNDER **COMAR 13A.06.03.02**, ~~A COUNTY BOARD~~ THE

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY WAIVE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT THAT THE STUDENT BE ENROLLED AT AND ATTEND A MEMBER SCHOOL IF:

(1) THE STUDENT ATTENDS A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY THAT IS NOT THE STUDENT’S ZONED HIGH SCHOOL;

(2) THE PUBLIC SCHOOL THE STUDENT ATTENDS UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT HAVE AN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS PROGRAM; AND

(3) THE STUDENT MEETS ALL OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY BOARD AND THE MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

~~(C)~~ (D) A STUDENT WHO RECEIVES AN ELIGIBILITY WAIVER UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(B)~~ (C) OF THIS SECTION MAY ONLY PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AT THE STUDENT’S ZONED HIGH SCHOOL.

~~(D)~~ (E) FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING THE CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER SCHOOLS FOR ATHLETIC CONTESTS UNDER COMAR 13A.06.03.06, THE ~~COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT~~ WASHINGTON COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS SHALL REPORT TO THE MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AS THE ACTUAL ENROLLMENT OF THE MEMBER SCHOOL:

(1) THE ACTUAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF THE MEMBER SCHOOL IN GRADES 9, 10, AND 11 AS OF SEPTEMBER 30 OF EACH EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR; PLUS

(2) THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS AUTHORIZED TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AT THE MEMBER SCHOOL UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(B)~~ (C) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.