

HOUSE BILL 971

F1

4lr3153
CF SB 851

By: **Delegates Grossman and Wims**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Public Schools~~ **Washington County – Interscholastic Athletics – Student**
3 **Eligibility Waiver and School Classification**

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

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Education

15 Section ~~7-135~~ 4-142

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 ~~7-135.~~ 4-142.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 (2) "MEMBER SCHOOL" MEANS A PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT IS A MEMBER
4 OF THE MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

5 (3) "ZONED HIGH SCHOOL" MEANS THE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL THAT
6 A STUDENT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND UNDER THE REGULATIONS OF THE
7 COUNTY BOARD.

8 (B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

9 (C) FOR A STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AT
10 THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL UNDER COMAR 13A.06.03.02, ~~A COUNTY BOARD~~ THE
11 WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY WAIVE THE ELIGIBILITY
12 REQUIREMENT THAT THE STUDENT BE ENROLLED AT AND ATTEND A MEMBER
13 SCHOOL IF:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.