

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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Education
13 Section 7–135
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Education**

19 **7–135.**

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

4 **(B) FOR A STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AT**
5 **THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL UNDER COMAR 13A.06.03.02, A COUNTY BOARD MAY**
6 **WAIVE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT THAT THE STUDENT BE ENROLLED AT AND**
7 **ATTEND A MEMBER SCHOOL IF:**

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

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

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

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

19 **(D) FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING THE CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER**
20 **SCHOOLS FOR ATHLETIC CONTESTS UNDER COMAR 13A.06.03.06, THE COUNTY**
21 **SUPERINTENDENT SHALL REPORT TO THE MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY**
22 **SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AS THE ACTUAL ENROLLMENT OF THE MEMBER**
23 **SCHOOL:**

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

26 **(2) THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS AUTHORIZED TO**
27 **PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AT THE MEMBER SCHOOL UNDER**
28 **SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
30 1, 2024.