

HOUSE BILL 358

F5
HB 450/24 – W&M

5lr1863
CF 5lr1700

By: **Delegates Martinez, Acevero, and Young**
Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2025
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Department of Education – Soccer Opportunities Program –**
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Soccer Opportunities Program in the State
5 Department of Education to increase opportunities for minority students to
6 participate in soccer in their communities; and generally relating to the Soccer
7 Opportunities Program.

8 BY adding to
9 Article – Education
10 Section 2–305.1
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 **2–305.1.**

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

19 (2) “MINORITY STUDENT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN
20 REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT.

21 (3) “YOUTH SOCCER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION” MEANS A
22 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(I) PROVIDES SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN UNDER**
2 **THE AGE OF 18 YEARS; AND**

3 **(II) IS RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES SOCCER**
4 **FEDERATION AS A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND STATE YOUTH SOCCER**
5 **ASSOCIATION.**

6 **(B) (1) THERE IS A SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM IN THE**
7 **DEPARTMENT.**

8 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM IS TO**
9 **INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITY STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCCER**
10 **IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

11 **(C) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER THE**
12 **SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM.**

13 **(D) (1) A YOUTH SOCCER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION MAY SUBMIT AN**
14 **APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE A GRANT FOR A PROGRAM THAT IS:**

15 **(I) IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PURPOSE OF THE SOCCER**
16 **OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM; AND**

17 **(II) 1. COMPOSED OF AT LEAST 50% MINORITY PLAYERS; OR**

18 **2. COMPOSED OF AT LEAST 50% PLAYERS WHO QUALIFY**
19 **TO RECEIVE FREE LUNCH UNDER THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.**

20 **(2) AN APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE:**

21 **(I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE**
22 **PROGRAM;**

23 **(II) A BUSINESS PLAN THAT INCLUDES THE ESTIMATED TOTAL**
24 **COST OF THE PROGRAM; AND**

25 **(III) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE**
26 **DEPARTMENT.**

27 **(E) IN AWARDING A GRANT UNDER THE SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES**
28 **PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

1 **(1) REQUIRE THE GRANTEE TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FROM**
2 **ANY COMBINATION OF FEDERAL, COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, OR PRIVATE SOURCES; AND**

3 **(2) ENSURE THAT THE GRANT DOES NOT EXCEED 50% OF THE TOTAL**
4 **ANNUAL COST OF THE GRANTEE'S PROGRAM.**

5 **(F) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S**
6 **DESIGNEE SHALL:**

7 **(1) REVIEW GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE**
8 **WITH SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

9 **(2) TO THE EXTENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, PROVIDE GRANTS TO**
10 **YOUTH SOCCER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR**
11 **A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION.**

12 **(G) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2027, 2028, AND 2029, THE GOVERNOR SHALL**
13 **INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST \$100,000**
14 **FOR THE SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM.**

15 **(H) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY**
16 **OUT THIS SECTION.**

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
18 1, 2025.