

# SENATE BILL 923

F1, P2

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CF 5lr0646

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By: **Senator Gile**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – High School Sports Officiating Services – Procurement**  
3 **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing requirements for local school systems that issue  
5 invitations for bids for high school sports officiating services for boys’ and girls’ high  
6 school sports; and generally relating to procurement requirements for high school  
7 sports officiating services.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 4–147

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 **4–147.**

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

19 **(2) “ASSIGNING FEES” MEANS THE FEES CHARGED BY AN ASSIGNOR.**

20 **(3) “ASSIGNOR” MEANS AN OFFICIATING ASSOCIATION OR**  
21 **ORGANIZATION OR AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR THAT:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (I) IS REGISTERED AND IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE STATE  
2 DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION; AND

3 (II) PROVIDES, ASSIGNS, AND SCHEDULES THE OFFICIALS THAT  
4 PROVIDE THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES FOR A HIGH SCHOOL  
5 SPORTING EVENT.

6 (4) "HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES" MEANS THE  
7 OFFICIATING SERVICES PROVIDED BY AN OFFICIAL, AN UMPIRE, A REFEREE, OR A  
8 JUDGE AT A HIGH SCHOOL SPORTING EVENT.

9 (5) "SIMILAR BOYS' AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS" MEANS HIGH  
10 SCHOOL SPORTS THAT:

11 (I) OCCUR IN THE SAME SEASON;

12 (II) HAVE COMPARABLE RULES;

13 (III) HAVE A SIMILAR NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS  
14 OFFICIALS; AND

15 (IV) HAVE A SIMILAR TIME OF COMPETITION.

16 (B) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL ISSUE INVITATIONS FOR BIDS OR  
17 REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR SIMILAR BOYS' AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS  
18 OFFICIATING SERVICES SIMULTANEOUSLY.

19 (C) (1) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM MAY ISSUE AN INVITATION FOR BIDS OR  
20 A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS THAT REQUIRES A PROSPECTIVE BIDDER OR OFFEROR  
21 TO INCLUDE IN A BID OR AN OFFER BOTH BOYS' AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS  
22 OFFICIATING SERVICES.

23 (2) IF A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM ISSUES SEPARATE INVITATIONS FOR  
24 BIDS OR REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR BOYS' AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS  
25 OFFICIATING SERVICES, THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM:

26 (I) MAY NOT SET SEPARATE DEADLINES FOR THE SUBMISSION  
27 OF BIDS AND OFFERS FOR BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES AND  
28 GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES; AND

29 (II) MAY REQUIRE THAT PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS OR OFFERORS  
30 PARTNER TO ENSURE THAT BIDS AND OFFERS FOR BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

1 OFFICIATING SERVICES ARE ACCOMPANIED BY BIDS AND OFFERS FOR GIRLS' HIGH  
2 SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES.

3 (D) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL REJECT A BID OR PROPOSAL IF  
4 ENTERING INTO A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT BASED ON THE BID OR PROPOSAL  
5 WOULD RESULT, FOR SIMILAR BOYS' AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS, IN THE RATE  
6 OF PAY OR ASSIGNING FEES RECEIVED BY INDIVIDUALS OFFICIATING GIRLS' HIGH  
7 SCHOOL SPORTS OR ASSIGNING GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIALS BEING  
8 DIFFERENT FROM THE RATE OF PAY OR ASSIGNING FEES FOR INDIVIDUALS  
9 OFFICIATING BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OR ASSIGNING BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL  
10 SPORTS OFFICIALS.

11 (E) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT THE PAYMENT OF  
12 ASSIGNING FEES AS A BONUS THAT IS PAID OUTSIDE A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT.

13 (F) THE DEPARTMENT MAY DEVELOP GUIDELINES TO ASSIST A LOCAL  
14 SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION,  
15 INCLUDING ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING WHICH HIGH SCHOOL  
16 SPORTS QUALIFY AS SIMILAR BOYS' AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

18 (a) A local school system that executed a procurement contract for high school  
19 sports officiating services, as defined in § 4-147 of the Education Article, as enacted by  
20 Section 1 of this Act, on or before July 1, 2025, may extend the term of the contract to align  
21 the contract timelines for similar boys' and girls' high school sports.

22 (b) A local school system may not extend a contract under subsection (a) of this  
23 section beyond July 1, 2029.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except for a contract for high  
25 school sports officials extended by a local school system in accordance with Section 2 of this  
26 Act, this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or  
27 interpreted to have any effect on or application to any procurement contracts for high school  
28 sports officiating services, as defined in § 4-147 of the Education Article, as enacted under  
29 Section 1 of this Act, entered into before the effective date of this Act.

30 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
31 1, 2025.