

# SENATE BILL 923

F1, P2

(5lr0926)

## ENROLLED BILL

— *Education, Energy, and the Environment / Ways and Means and Health and Government Operations* —

Introduced by ~~Senator Gile~~ Senators Gile, Attar, Augustine, Brooks, Carozza, Hester, Kagan, and M. Washington

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

### CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – High School Sports ~~Officiating Services – Procurement~~**  
3 **~~Requirements~~ Officials – Payment and Fees**

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~~ requiring the State Department of Education, in  
8 consultation with the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association to  
9 develop and periodically update a list of similar high school sports that are  
10 categorized together; requiring a county board of education to ensure that certain high  
11 school sports officials for certain high school sports are provided equal pay; requiring  
12 a county board to conduct invitations for bids for high school sports officiating

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#### 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.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.*



1 services in a certain manner; and generally relating to compensation for high school  
 2 sports officials.

3 BY adding to

4 Article – Education

5 Section 4–147

6 Annotated Code of Maryland

7 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

10 **Article – Education**

11 **4–147.**

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

14 ~~(2) “ASSIGNING FEES” MEANS THE FEES CHARGED BY AN ASSIGNOR.~~

15 ~~(3) “ASSIGNOR” MEANS AN OFFICIATING ASSOCIATION OR~~  
 16 ~~ORGANIZATION OR AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR THAT:~~

17 ~~(i) IS REGISTERED AND IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE STATE~~  
 18 ~~DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION; AND~~

19 ~~(ii) PROVIDES, ASSIGNS, AND SCHEDULES THE OFFICIALS THAT~~  
 20 ~~PROVIDE THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES FOR A HIGH SCHOOL~~  
 21 ~~SPORTING EVENT.~~

22 (2) “HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIAL” MEANS AN OFFICIAL, AN  
 23 UMPIRE, A REFEREE, OR A JUDGE WHO PRESIDES OVER A SPORTING EVENT TO  
 24 GUARANTEE THAT THE RULES OF THE EVENT ARE ENFORCED.

25 (3) “HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING ROLE” MEANS AN  
 26 OFFICIATING ASSIGNMENT FOR A HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIAL THAT REQUIRES  
 27 PERFORMANCE OF A DEFINED SET OF HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES.

28 (4) “HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES” MEANS THE  
 29 ~~OFFICIATING SERVICES PROVIDED BY AN OFFICIAL, AN UMPIRE, A REFEREE, OR A~~  
 30 ~~JUDGE AT A HIGH SCHOOL SPORTING EVENT~~ A HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIAL  
 31 WHEN OVERSEEING A HIGH SCHOOL SPORT.

1           ~~(5) "SIMILAR BOYS' AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS" MEANS HIGH~~  
2 ~~SCHOOL SPORTS THAT:~~

3           ~~(I) OCCUR IN THE SAME SEASON;~~

4           ~~(II) HAVE COMPARABLE RULES;~~

5           ~~(III) HAVE A SIMILAR NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS~~  
6 ~~OFFICIALS; AND~~

7           ~~(IV) HAVE A SIMILAR TIME OF COMPETITION.~~

8           ~~(B) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL ISSUE INVITATIONS FOR BIDS OR~~  
9 ~~REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR SIMILAR BOYS' AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS~~  
10 ~~OFFICIATING SERVICES SIMULTANEOUSLY.~~

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

15           ~~(2) IF A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM ISSUES SEPARATE INVITATIONS FOR~~  
16 ~~BIDS OR REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR BOYS' AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS~~  
17 ~~OFFICIATING SERVICES, THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM:~~

18           ~~(I) MAY NOT SET SEPARATE DEADLINES FOR THE SUBMISSION~~  
19 ~~OF BIDS AND OFFERS FOR BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES AND~~  
20 ~~GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES; AND~~

21           ~~(II) MAY REQUIRE THAT PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS OR OFFERORS~~  
22 ~~PARTNER TO ENSURE THAT BIDS AND OFFERS FOR BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS~~  
23 ~~OFFICIATING SERVICES ARE ACCOMPANIED BY BIDS AND OFFERS FOR GIRLS' HIGH~~  
24 ~~SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES.~~

25           ~~(D) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL REJECT A BID OR PROPOSAL IF~~  
26 ~~ENTERING INTO A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT BASED ON THE BID OR PROPOSAL~~  
27 ~~WOULD RESULT, FOR SIMILAR BOYS' AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS, IN THE RATE~~  
28 ~~OF PAY OR ASSIGNING FEES RECEIVED BY INDIVIDUALS OFFICIATING GIRLS' HIGH~~  
29 ~~SCHOOL SPORTS OR ASSIGNING GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIALS BEING~~  
30 ~~DIFFERENT FROM THE RATE OF PAY OR ASSIGNING FEES FOR INDIVIDUALS~~  
31 ~~OFFICIATING BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OR ASSIGNING BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL~~  
32 ~~SPORTS OFFICIALS.~~

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

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

7 (B) (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, THE DEPARTMENT, IN  
8 CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC  
9 ASSOCIATION, SHALL DEVELOP A LIST OF SIMILAR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS FOR BOYS  
10 AND GIRLS.

11 (2) IN CATEGORIZING BOYS' AND GIRLS' SPORTS AS SIMILAR, THE  
12 DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER WHETHER EACH SPORT:

13 (I) OCCURS IN THE SAME SEASON;

14 (II) HAS COMPARABLE RULES;

15 (III) REQUIRES A SIMILAR NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS  
16 OFFICIALS;

17 (IV) REQUIRES SIMILAR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING  
18 SERVICES; AND

19 (V) FEATURES COMPETITION OF COMPARABLE LENGTHS OF  
20 TIME.

21 (3) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND  
22 PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, SHALL UPDATE THE LIST  
23 EVERY 3 YEARS.

24 (C) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO A HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIAL  
25 WHO:

26 (I) IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM; OR

27 (II) IS EMPLOYED BY AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR OR  
28 OFFICIATING ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION, WITH WHICH THE COUNTY BOARD  
29 CONTRACTS.

30 (2) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL ENSURE THAT HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS  
31 OFFICIALS RECEIVE THE SAME PAY IF THE OFFICIALS:

1                    (I) ARE IN SIMILAR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING ROLES;

2 AND

3                    (II) ARE PROVIDING OFFICIATING SERVICES FOR SPORTS  
4 CATEGORIZED AS SIMILAR UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

5            (D) (1) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL REJECT A BID OR PROPOSAL FOR A  
6 PROCUREMENT CONTRACT THAT WOULD RESULT IN DIFFERENT PAY OR FEES FOR  
7 HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIALS IN A SIMILAR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING  
8 ROLE FOR SPORTS CATEGORIZED AS SIMILAR UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS  
9 SECTION.

10            (2) WHEN SOLICITING INVITATIONS FOR A BID OR A REQUEST FOR A  
11 PROPOSAL FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES, A COUNTY BOARD  
12 SHALL SOLICIT BIDS OR REQUESTS FOR A PROPOSAL FOR EACH SPORT WITHIN A  
13 REASONABLE TIME OF THE SOLICITATION OF BIDS OR REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS  
14 FOR ALL SPORTS CATEGORIZED AS SIMILAR UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS  
15 SECTION.

16            (E) (1) THIS SECTION MAY ONLY BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE PARITY  
17 BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIALS PERFORMING SIMILAR ROLES IN  
18 SIMILAR SPORTS WITHIN A COUNTY AND MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE  
19 PARITY IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIALS BETWEEN COUNTIES.

20            (2) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ON  
21 THE GROUPING OF SPORTS TOGETHER FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE  
22 PAYMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIALS OR FEES ASSIGNED TO CONTRACTS  
23 FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIALS.

24            (3) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT FEES  
25 OUTSIDE OF A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT AS A BONUS TO HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS  
26 OFFICIALS.

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

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

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

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

7 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
8 1, 2025.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.