

SENATE BILL 923

F1, P2

5lr0926
CF HB 1483

By: ~~Senator Gile~~ **Senators Gile, Attar, Augustine, Brooks, Carozza, Hester, Kagan,
and M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 16, 2025

CHAPTER _____

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.**

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

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

4 **(I) IS REGISTERED AND IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE STATE**
5 **DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION; AND**

6 **(II) PROVIDES, ASSIGNS, AND SCHEDULES THE OFFICIALS THAT**
7 **PROVIDE THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES FOR A HIGH SCHOOL**
8 **SPORTING EVENT.**

9 **(4) “HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES” MEANS THE**
10 **OFFICIATING SERVICES PROVIDED BY AN OFFICIAL, AN UMPIRE, A REFEREE, OR A**
11 **JUDGE AT A HIGH SCHOOL SPORTING EVENT.**

12 **(5) “SIMILAR BOYS’ AND GIRLS’ HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS” MEANS HIGH**
13 **SCHOOL SPORTS THAT:**

14 **(I) OCCUR IN THE SAME SEASON;**

15 **(II) HAVE COMPARABLE RULES;**

16 **(III) HAVE A SIMILAR NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**
17 **OFFICIALS; AND**

18 **(IV) HAVE A SIMILAR TIME OF COMPETITION.**

19 **(B) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL ISSUE INVITATIONS FOR BIDS OR**
20 **REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR SIMILAR BOYS’ AND GIRLS’ HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**
21 **OFFICIATING SERVICES SIMULTANEOUSLY.**

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

26 **(2) IF A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM ISSUES SEPARATE INVITATIONS FOR**
27 **BIDS OR REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR BOYS’ AND GIRLS’ HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**
28 **OFFICIATING SERVICES, THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM:**

1 **(I) MAY NOT SET SEPARATE DEADLINES FOR THE SUBMISSION**
2 **OF BIDS AND OFFERS FOR BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES AND**
3 **GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES; AND**

4 **(II) MAY REQUIRE THAT PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS OR OFFERORS**
5 **PARTNER TO ENSURE THAT BIDS AND OFFERS FOR BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**
6 **OFFICIATING SERVICES ARE ACCOMPANIED BY BIDS AND OFFERS FOR GIRLS' HIGH**
7 **SCHOOL SPORTS OFFICIATING SERVICES.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
36 1, 2025.