

HOUSE BILL 1275

F1

6lr3431

By: **Delegates Wims and Coley**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Interscholastic Athletics – Academic Eligibility**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the standards of participation for student participation in
4 interscholastic athletics established by a county board of education to include a
5 process for a student to appeal a determination that the student is academically
6 ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics; establishing certain
7 requirements for a certain appeal process, including a certain provisional eligibility
8 period; and generally relating to public school interscholastic athletics.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education

11 Section 7–137

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 **7–137.**

18 **(A) (1) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO THE ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY OF**
19 **A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS.**

20 **(2) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT A**
21 **SCHOOL FROM:**

22 **(I) SUSPENDING OR EXPELLING A STUDENT; OR**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(II) PROHIBITING STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN**
2 **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS DUE TO A VIOLATION OF AN ESTABLISHED**
3 **ATTENDANCE POLICY.**

4 **(B) (1) THE STANDARDS OF PARTICIPATION FOR STUDENT**
5 **PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS ESTABLISHED BY A COUNTY**
6 **BOARD SHALL INCLUDE A PROCESS FOR A STUDENT TO APPEAL A PUBLIC SCHOOL'S**
7 **DETERMINATION THAT THE STUDENT IS ACADEMICALLY INELIGIBLE TO**
8 **PARTICIPATE.**

9 **(2) AN APPEAL PROCESS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
10 **SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:**

11 **(I) AN INTERNAL SCHOOL PROCESS TO APPEAL A**
12 **DETERMINATION OF ACADEMIC INELIGIBILITY, INCLUDING A HEARING;**

13 **(II) WRITTEN NOTICE OF:**

14 1. **THE DETERMINATION AND THE BASIS FOR THE**
15 **DETERMINATION;**

16 2. **THE PROCESS FOR AN INTERNAL SCHOOL APPEAL,**
17 **INCLUDING RELEVANT TIMELINES AND DEADLINES; AND**

18 3. **THE EARLIEST AVAILABLE HEARING DATE AND TIME;**
19 **AND**

20 **(III) ON RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF A STUDENT'S INTENT TO**
21 **APPEAL, A PROVISIONAL ELIGIBILITY PERIOD UNTIL THE EARLIER OF:**

22 1. **THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERNAL SCHOOL**
23 **APPEAL; OR**

24 2. **10 SCHOOL DAYS.**

25 **(C) DURING A PROVISIONAL ELIGIBILITY PERIOD OF THE APPEALS**
26 **PROCESS UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A STUDENT:**

27 **(1) MAY PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS, INCLUDING**
28 **PRACTICE AND COMPETITION; AND**

29 **(2) MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED AN INELIGIBLE STUDENT FOR**
30 **PURPOSES OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS RULES OR REGULATIONS.**

1 (D) IF A PUBLIC SCHOOL UPHOLDS A DETERMINATION OF ACADEMIC
2 INELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AFTER AN
3 APPEAL, THE STUDENT'S ACADEMIC INELIGIBILITY SHALL TAKE EFFECT THE NEXT
4 SCHOOL DAY.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2026.