

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1097
Ways and Means

(Delegate Roberts, *et al.*)

Public High Schools - Sports Injury Recordkeeping and Reporting -
Requirements

This bill requires each public high school in Maryland to maintain a standardized injury log with specified elements for all injuries that occur during athletic activities conducted by the school. Each injury must be documented within 24 hours of the injury being observed or reported. A coach, certified athletic trainer, school nurse, or other designated school personnel may document an injury. An injury log must be maintained by a school for at least five years and made available on request by the local school system and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for compliance and safety review purposes. By July 1, 2027, and each July 1 thereafter, each local school system must submit an aggregated report to MSDE of high school athletic injuries for the preceding school year. MSDE, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSA), may adopt regulations and standardized reporting forms necessary to implement the bill. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. MSDE can, at its discretion, adopt regulations and standardized reporting forms using existing resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: Some local school systems incur minimal additional training and technology costs beginning in FY 2027. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State regulations under MSDE govern the athletic programs for all high school students in Maryland public secondary schools, which are members of the MPSSAA. Local school systems may adopt rules governing their athletic programs that are more restrictive than those of MPSSAA.

Each public middle school and high school must develop a venue-specific emergency action plan for all athletic facilities. A venue-specific action plan includes (1) the operation and use of automatic external defibrillators; (2) heat acclimatization; (3) coordination of care for other emergent injuries, including cervical spinal injury, concussion and closed head injury, major orthopedic injuries, and severe weather for outdoor facilities; and (4) a specified cardiac emergency response plan. All high school coaches are required to have completed a one-credit course in the prevention and care of athletic injuries.

Local Fiscal Effect: Some public school systems, including Frederick County Public Schools, Montgomery County Public Schools, and Wicomico County Public Schools advise that they already maintain the injury data required by the bill and can implement the record retention and reporting requirements with existing resources.

However, some local school systems may incur minimal additional training and technology costs beginning in FY 2027. Anne Arundel County Public Schools anticipates (1) increased training costs for personnel required to log and report on injuries incurred during school athletic activities and (2) increased pay for athletic trainers to compensate them for the increased workload. Saint Mary's County Public Schools anticipates annual expenditures of about \$7,500 to procure injury tracking technology.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Wicomico County Public Schools; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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caw/mcr

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