

# HOUSE BILL 63

F1, D5

6lr0761

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegates Szeliga, Arikan, Chisholm, Fisher, Grammer, M. Morgan, and Nawrocki**

Requested: September 4, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

### **Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Locker Rooms – Designation Based on Sex (Fairness in Girls’ Sports Act)**

FOR the purpose of requiring certain interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams or sports sponsored by certain schools and certain locker rooms to be expressly designated based on biological sex; prohibiting certain entities from taking certain adverse actions against a school for maintaining separate interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams or sports, or locker rooms for students of the female sex; providing that certain individuals have the right to bring a civil action under certain circumstances; and generally relating to interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity teams and sports and locker rooms in public and nonpublic schools.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7–118

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

### **Article – Education**

**7–118.**

**(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



INDICATED.

(2) “LOCKER ROOM” MEANS A DEDICATED SPACE WHERE A STUDENT CAN CHANGE CLOTHES AND STORE BELONGINGS AND WHERE PARTIAL OR FULL DISROBING IS EXPECTED.

(3) “STUDENT OF THE FEMALE SEX” MEANS A STUDENT WHOSE BIOLOGICAL SEX IS FEMALE.

(4) “STUDENT OF THE MALE SEX” MEANS A STUDENT WHOSE BIOLOGICAL SEX IS MALE.

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:

(1) PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS; AND

(2) NONPUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS WHOSE STUDENT ATHLETES OR ATHLETIC TEAMS COMPETE AGAINST STUDENT ATHLETES OR ATHLETIC TEAMS FROM PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

(C) (1) AN INTERSCHOLASTIC OR INTRAMURAL JUNIOR VARSITY OR VARSITY ATHLETIC TEAM OR SPORT THAT IS SPONSORED BY A PUBLIC OR NONPUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL SHALL BE EXPRESSLY DESIGNATED AS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BASED ON BIOLOGICAL SEX:

(I) A BOYS’, MALE, OR MEN’S TEAM OR SPORT;

(II) A GIRLS’, FEMALE, OR WOMEN’S TEAM OR SPORT; OR

(III) A COEDUCATIONAL OR MIXED TEAM OR SPORT.

(2) AN INTERSCHOLASTIC OR INTRAMURAL JUNIOR VARSITY OR VARSITY ATHLETIC TEAM OR SPORT DESIGNATED FOR GIRLS, FEMALES, OR WOMEN MAY NOT INCLUDE STUDENTS OF THE MALE SEX.

(D) (1) A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL EXPRESSLY DESIGNATE A LOCKER ROOM AS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BASED ON BIOLOGICAL SEX:

(I) A BOYS’, MALE, OR MEN’S LOCKER ROOM; OR

(II) A GIRLS’, FEMALE, OR WOMEN’S LOCKER ROOM.

**(2) A LOCKER ROOM THAT IS USED BY AN INTERSCHOLASTIC OR INTRAMURAL JUNIOR VARSITY ATHLETIC TEAM DESIGNATED FOR GIRLS, FEMALES, OR WOMEN MAY NOT BE USED BY STUDENTS OF THE MALE SEX.**

**(E) A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, A LICENSING OR ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION, OR AN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION MAY NOT ACCEPT A COMPLAINT, CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, OR TAKE ANY OTHER ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST A SCHOOL FOR MAINTAINING SEPARATE INTERSCHOLASTIC OR INTRAMURAL JUNIOR VARSITY OR VARSITY ATHLETIC TEAMS OR SPORTS OR LOCKER ROOMS DESIGNATED FOR STUDENTS OF THE FEMALE SEX.**

**(F) (1) (I) A STUDENT WHO IS DEPRIVED OF AN ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITY OR SUFFERS ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT HARM AS A RESULT OF A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THE SCHOOL THE STUDENT ATTENDS.**

**(II) A STUDENT WHO IS SUBJECT TO RETALIATION OR OTHER ADVERSE ACTION BY A SCHOOL OR AN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION AS A RESULT OF REPORTING A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION TO AN EMPLOYEE OR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCHOOL, ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION, OR ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY WITH OVERSIGHT OF SCHOOLS IN THE STATE MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THE SCHOOL OR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION.**

**(III) A SCHOOL THAT SUFFERS ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT HARM FROM A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, A LICENSING OR ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION, OR AN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION AS A RESULT OF A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, LICENSING OR ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION, OR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION.**

**(2) A CIVIL ACTION INITIATED UNDER THIS SECTION MUST BE INITIATED WITHIN 2 YEARS AFTER THE HARM OCCURRED.**

**(3) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PREVAILS IN A CIVIL ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION MAY RECOVER:**

**(I) MONETARY DAMAGES, INCLUDING DAMAGES FOR ANY PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL HARM SUFFERED;**

**(II) REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS; AND**

**(III) ANY OTHER RELIEF, INCLUDING AN INJUNCTION, AS THE**

**COURT MAY DETERMINE APPROPRIATE.**

**(G) THIS SECTION MAY BE KNOWN AND CITED AS THE FAIRNESS IN GIRLS' SPORTS ACT.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if any provision of this Act or the application of any provision of this Act to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, the provision shall be construed to give the provision the maximum effect permitted by law unless the provision is held to be absolutely invalid.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if any provision of this Act or the application of any provision of this Act to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other application of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared severable.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.