



MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY PARK & RECREATION
ADMINISTRATORS

House Bill 1345

Youth Sports Programs-Registrations, Personnel, and Policy Information-3 Requirements

MACPRA Position: **OPPOSES**

To: Ways and Means Committee

Date: February 26, 2020

From: Kathleen Burley, President

The Maryland Association of County Park and Recreation Administrators (MACPRA) **OPPOSES** HB 1345.

MACPRA is an affiliate of the Maryland Association of Counties and represents the parks and recreation departments of all 23 counties and Baltimore City.

HB 1345 as written duplicates regulations set forth by many National Governing Bodies (NGB) of sport. Personnel (volunteer or paid) training and background documentation, and concussion/sudden cardiac arrest awareness and training are both components of NGB rules that youth sports organizations and leagues play by.

All parks and recreation follow the State guidelines on traumatic head injury and the "Return to Play" release that a doctor must sign. All jurisdictions have staff and volunteer training in this area.

The requiring of an annual 'Registry' of youth sports personnel leads to issues of compliance of national standards, inability to comply to Family Law Article 5-551 and duplication of effort for personnel of multiple organizations. The strain on volunteer led organizations to create and maintain such a registry would certainly limit the interest and availability of perspective volunteers. The cost to implement and staff such a registry by government Parks and Recreation agencies would impact those agencies' ability to maintain a price point affordable to most families.

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*The Maryland Association of County Park and Recreation Administrators (MACPRA)
seeks to ensure the quality of life of our county citizens by advocating for recreation opportunities and facilities, parks and open spaces,
and for the protection and preservation of the means through which these essential public rights are provided.*

When youth sports tournaments draw teams from other states how would this law be enforced and who would be able to do it? It would likely de-incentivize out of state teams from participating and result in economic loss to local jurisdictions.

In short, MACPRA believes youth sports should be governed by NGB rules to insure consistency and HB 1345 is unnecessary.

Accordingly, MACPRA requests an unfavorable report by the Committee