

**MASTMA - HB435 Letter of Support (Session 2022).pd**

Uploaded by: Robert Navolis

Position: FAV



**House Ways & Means Committee**  
**House Bill 435: Youth Sports Programs - Registrations, Personnel, and Policy**  
**SUPPORT**

**February 7, 2022**

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee  
131 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman, Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

The Mid-Atlantic Sports Turf Manager Association (MASTMA) is an organization that is composed of sports turf field managers and workers from Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C., Northern Virginia.

As MASTMA members, we partner together to promote education, teamwork, networking, and best practices among our peers and within the Sports Turf Management Industry. Over the last couple of years, MASTMA has created and distributed a Best Management Practices (BMP) manual.

One of the focuses of the BMP manual is to highlight industry specific practices that ensure the safety of the community, and that environment remains the top priority in our line of work. It covers topics to help both managers and workers keep fields safe and playable for athletes of all ages, from children to professionals.

On behalf of MASTMA, we officially **support** House Bill 435. We believe player safety is of the utmost importance for anyone playing on our fields. Educating players, parents, and spectators of all aspects of safety on the fields is vital to prolonged playability and fun to be had on sports fields.

Supporting this legislation will enable us to offer our extensive knowledge of sports fields to help this bill pass and help further educate the public and fellow legislators on sports field safety.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a *Favorable* report on House Bill 435.

Sincerely,

MASTMA, BMP Outreach Committee

*Robert Navolis*

# **HB435 Sponsor Testimony**

Uploaded by: Terri Hill

Position: FAV

**TERRI L. HILL, M.D.**

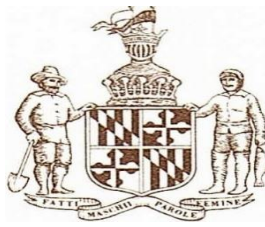
*Legislative District 12*

Baltimore and Howard Counties

Health and Government Operations  
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## **THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

February 10, 2022

### **SUPPORT**

#### **HB 435 – Youth Sports Programs – Registrations, Personnel, and Policy**

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice-chair Washington, and members of the Ways and Means Committee, HB 435 extends the best practices and standards practiced by local Parks and Rec and youth sports organizations in Maryland with respect to background screens and safety training for personnel standards of those responsible for oversight our youngest athletes, pee-wee to pre-teen. An offered amendment clarifying that the provision apply only to youth sports below the high school level of play, does so because there are already in place sufficient standards and oversight in place at the high school level of play that address the goals of this bill.

Additional amendments offered 1) remove the additional prerequisite for a youth athlete to receive medical clearance returning them to full academic activities in order to be cleared for return to play; and 2) remove the unnecessary, costly, and overly burdensome inclusion of a credit check as part of the criminal background check.

We require our high school athletic personnel, and most Parks and Rec leagues in the state and many independent leagues require their coaches and other personnel, to undergo criminal background checks and at least basic training in concussion awareness. Certainly our youngest athletes deserve a level of protection, but our younger sports leagues do not uniformly share the same expectations and requirements, despite the fact that risk of recreation and sports related injury or exploitation is greater.

Hb435 would require the coaches, team administrators, and volunteers for youth sports programs under high school level to be trained in not just concussion awareness, but also child safety heat illness recognition / prevention / and treatment, to undergo standard background checks as employed by the National Recreation and Parks Association, to keep a registry of such, require that personnel display I.D. when participating in organized activities, and require that parents be given information regarding the health risks and associated policies and practices.

Most youth sports programs already maintain some type of registry of their coaches, staff, and volunteers and their appropriate training, but they vary across the state in terms of what if any basic safety training or background information is required to serve in these roles of authority and supervision. Programs which do not already maintain a registry could choose to create their own or, as some are already doing, to partner with, or join, another's. The safety training is readily available through a variety of forums, including online, at minimal or no cost.

There are huge social, emotional, health, developmental and social benefits of youth recreation and sports activities, and such activity naturally comes with risk of injury. Where there are reasonable ways to minimize avoidable harm, we should do so. By applying current best practices as the statewide minimal standard,

**TERRI L. HILL, M.D.**

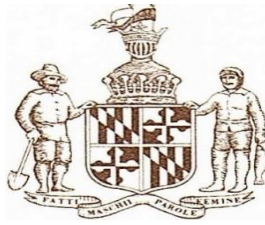
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## **THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

HB435 helps better meet our shared responsibility for the health and safety of our youngest constituents. I respectfully request adoption of the amendments and a favorable report on the amended bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Hill", with a stylized flourish at the end.

# **HB 435 - MPSSAA - Youth Sports Programs – Registra**

Uploaded by: Ary Amerikaner

Position: INFO



individualized plan for a student returning to school to help manage cognitive and physical exertion following a concussion. As a student recovers, healthcare providers can help guide the gradual removal of academic adjustments or supports that may be instituted as part of the recovery process.”

Currently, the MPSSAA provides schools the CDC “Heads Up For Schools” guidelines as well as the Appropriate Educational Accommodations document developed by the MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee. Medical professionals, who specialize in athletic injuries, including concussions, annually review these documents. These documents provide a variety of possible post-concussion effects and appropriately tailored educational accommodations. This document is fluid and continually evolves from the MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee as medical information becomes available on concussions and traumatic brain injuries.

House Bill 435 does not differentiate the definition of “Youth Sport Programs” from interscholastic athletic programs found in public schools. Requirements of “Youth Sports Program Personnel” differ from local educational agency requirements and may lead to attrition of those who do not have direct and unsupervised access to students based on additional requirements.

COMAR 13A.06.08.04 states, “Each school system shall require a certificate of completion from a coaches’ training course with refresher training every two years as a condition of coaching employment.” Since the beginning of the 2013-14 school year, at every Maryland public school practice or contest, the entire coaching staff has been trained in concussion risk and management. The National Federation of State High School Associations’ “Concussion in Sports” course, which is recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the official course for high schools, had over 7,100 Maryland coaches take the course to date during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Given these educational and training components currently in place, the MPSSAA believes the programs and policies advised by the MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee are continually providing both awareness and education for all stakeholders to ensure opportunities for students to participate in high school athletics safely. The regulations found in COMAR 13A.06.08 as well as the additional resources developed and implemented continue to evolve with the changing medical information from concussion research.

The MPSSAA respectfully requests that you consider this information as you deliberate **House Bill 435**. Please contact R. Andrew Warner, at 410-767-0376, or [robert.warner1@maryland.gov](mailto:robert.warner1@maryland.gov), for any additional information.