

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Opposition of House Bill 971  
Public Schools – Interscholastic Athletics – Student Eligibility  
Waiver and School Classification**

**February 21, 2024**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners appreciates the spirit of the legislation, but has several concerns and must oppose House Bill 971.

As drafted, the bill presents implementation challenges at a very basic level for the Baltimore City Schools. The legislation requires students to receive a waiver to participate with their “zoned” school; however, Baltimore City Schools do not maintain zoned/home school designations. Without an assigned school, how would we determine at which school the student was eligible to compete? In addition, how would we evaluate a request if a student wanted to participate at a citywide school?

In short, it is impractical to invoke a home school rule in districts that do not identify home schools at the high school level. Therefore, for the forgoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners opposes House Bill 971 and urges an unfavorable report

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