



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 5, 2025

Ways and Means Committee  
Chair Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Vice Chair Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins  
130 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 1272, a bill that builds on Maryland's longstanding commitment to the health and safety of our young athletes. This bill establishes the Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission to study and make recommendations to minimize risk and maximize safety for youth athletes in our state.

This issue has been championed before by numerous advocates, medical professionals, and sports organizations dedicated to ensuring that young athletes can safely participate in the sports they love. Maryland has already taken significant steps in improving concussion protocols, heat safety guidelines, and other measures designed to protect our youth. Today, we have the opportunity to build on those efforts by creating a commission that will bring together experts to address safety concerns comprehensively.

Youth sports should be an opportunity for growth, teamwork, and development—not a setting where preventable injuries derail futures. Currently, there is no centralized body in Maryland tasked with evaluating best practices, emerging risks, and safety standards across all youth sports. As a result, policies can vary widely, and critical safety updates may not reach all organizations and schools. HB1272 ensures that Maryland takes a proactive approach to protecting its young athletes by establishing a dedicated commission focused on their well-being.

The Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission will serve as a vital resource, conducting research, analyzing data, and providing policy recommendations to ensure that every child playing sports in Maryland does so in the safest environment possible.

While some may argue that individual sports organizations already have safety measures in place, the reality is that there are gaps in coordination and oversight. A centralized commission will provide a holistic, data-driven approach to improving youth sports safety statewide.

**What This Bill Does:**

- Creates the Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission. This body will study and recommend policies to enhance safety for youth athletes across all sports.
- Promotes best practices. The commission will evaluate current safety protocols, identify gaps, and suggest improvements based on the latest research and expert input.
- Protects all young athletes. By ensuring that safety guidelines are consistent and effective, this bill safeguards youth across Maryland, regardless of the sport they play or where they participate.

This is a simple issue of safety and responsibility. No parent should have to worry about whether their child is protected while participating in sports. HB1272 ensures that Maryland prioritizes youth athlete safety with a structured, evidence-based approach.

I urge a favorable report on HB1272, and I thank you for your time and consideration.