



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB1185 - Homeschool Students in Maryland - Right to Play**

**Hearing March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

I'm here to request your support for HB1185-Right to Play. Please note that this bill received bipartisan support. Right to Play authorizes public high schools to allow homeschooled students to participate in athletic activities at any high school within their county of residence, provided they meet specific requirements. The bill also ensures that if space is limited, priority will be given to students enrolled in the school.

Currently, Maryland has approximately 45,000 homeschooled students, with Black students representing the fastest-growing demographic—now totaling nearly 15,000. By allowing homeschooled students to join public school sports teams, this bill helps coaches maintain full rosters and ensures schools can field competitive teams. Homeschooled students will be held to the same eligibility standards as their enrolled peers, and families will cover all costs and transportation, preventing any financial burden on public schools.

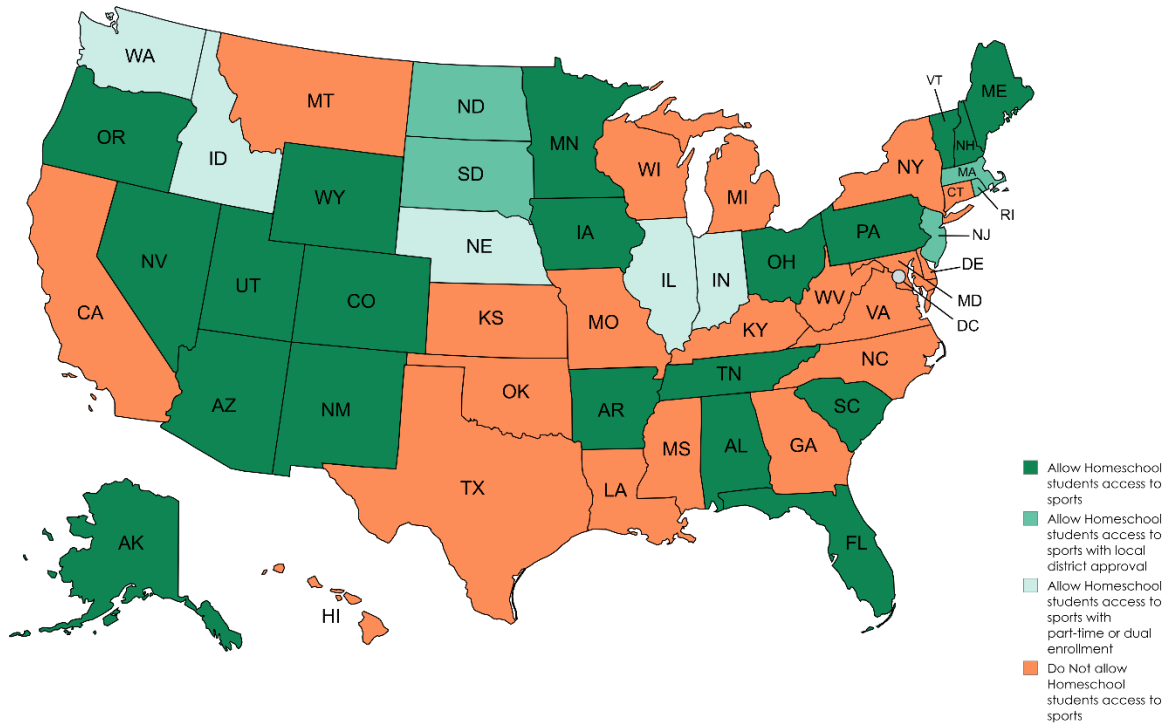
This legislation strengthens public schools by making them more competitive with private schools, which actively recruit public school athletes. Additionally, it provides homeschooled students with crucial social, emotional, and physical benefits while creating opportunities for college recruitment and athletic scholarships.

With 30 states already implementing similar laws, Maryland has the chance to follow suit and provide equitable access to athletic opportunities for all students. I urge support for HB1185 to ensure every student, regardless of their educational path, has the chance to participate and succeed. This is a win-win for the public schools and homeschooled students.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request a favorable report for HB 1185.



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### Number of Maryland Homeschool Children by County

Local School System	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021**
Allegany	191	188	199	220	233	223	220	207	208	211	246	270	263	271	276	318	318	314	434
Anne Arundel	1,675	2,100	2,140	1,975	1,826	1,817	1,846	1,800	1,863	1,790	1,910	2,236	2,450	2,266	2,550	2,544	2,715	2,825	4,891
Baltimore City	1,309	1,506	1,238	1,790	1,661	1,364	1,006	1,087	1,005	1,017	1,036	1,150	1,150	1,202	1,355	1,379	1,437	1,445	1,656
Baltimore County	2,642	2,686	2,979	2,968	2,914	2,594	2,596	2,508	2,488	2,305	2,385	2,547	2,631	2,663	2,750	3,035	3,213	3,765	4,664
Calvert	449	423	459	554	539	609	442	397	389	364	408	426	458	473	518	641	725	725	1,391
Caroline	167	114	135	147	166	174	145	169	163	160	165	190	200	203	221	303	348	373	493
Carroll	1,194	1,248	1,329	1,539	1,586	1,291	1,327	1,291	1,277	1,181	1,193	1,211	1,202	1,425	1,218	1,317	1,265	1,276	2,032
Cecil	706	975	1,157	1,145	1,245	1,259	1,397	1,535	1,097	1,172	1,124	1,217	1,094	1,213	1,263	1,226	1,322	961	1,194
Charles	722	774	749	809	823	886	1,052	1,186	1,363	1,533	1,388	1,191	1,008	784	881	997	1,037	1,072	1,779
Dorchester	78	93	86	79	86	85	84	77	85	77	80	92	103	95	137	154	N/A	185	250
Frederick	1,476	1,565	1,568	1,691	1,711	1,750	1,841	1,969	2,305	2,303	3,018	3,413	3,778	4,186	4,633	1,892	2,086	2,270	3,184
Garrett	234	248	277	307	291	268	291	319	342	318	160	336	293	304	306	342	295	172	424
Harford	1,251	1,351	1,700	1,529	1,593	1,665	1,480	1,446	1,401	1,580	1,698	1,738	1,745	1,774	1,860	1,702	1,754	808	2,490
Howard	1,113	1,325	1,224	1,447	1,694	1,694	1,006	1,226	1,188	1,180	1,004	1,027	995	962	1,279	1,323	1,247	1,318	1,846
Kent	79	50	76	80	68	68	67	72	61	66	62	65	77	70	91	91	113	82	156
Montgomery	2,252	2,201	2,268	2,461	2,242	2,783	3,010	2,734	2,418	2,550	2,570	2,665	2,613	2,854	2,379	2,355	2,510	2,914	3,878
Prince George's	3,018	3,335	3,904	3,372	3,759	3,500	4,548	2,991	2,147	2,913	3,332	3,877	4,051	3,966	2,899	3,095	3,327	3,177	4,468
Queen Anne's	247	255	257	291	283	292	274	266	267	240	239	255	270	282	285	287	322	349	645
St. Mary's	658	656	673	367	365	360	665	647	668	639	687	737	856	818	907	1,012	1,109	1,177	1,416
Somerset	67	61	56	57	74	66	62	72	49	61	52	89	93	114	98	159	202	208	196
Talbot	132	150	130	134	117	128	65	66	77	103	119	114	113	133	146	156	172	194	283
Washington	600	688	740	840	518	765	758	774	754	797	916	965	927	948	1,018	1,099	1,146	1,199	1,681
Wicomico	329	358	425	418	397	340	369	350	380	341	392	443	449	573	568	531	657	671	843
Worcester	87	71	107	109	86	93	83	98	115	108	118	180	156	163	190	82	231	274	379
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,676</b>	<b>22,421</b>	<b>23,876</b>	<b>24,329</b>	<b>24,277</b>	<b>24,074</b>	<b>24,634</b>	<b>23,287</b>	<b>22,110</b>	<b>23,069</b>	<b>24,302</b>	<b>26,434</b>	<b>26,975</b>	<b>27,742</b>	<b>27,828</b>	<b>26,040</b>	<b>27,551</b>	<b>27,754</b>	<b>40,663</b>
	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021**

\*\* Maryland State Department of Education generally collects annual homeschool student data in June of each academic year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MSDE collected additional data from Maryland's 24 school districts in late October 2020.