

**BENJAMIN BROOKS**  
*Legislative District 10*  
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the  
Environment Committee  
Energy Subcommittee

Chair, Joint Electric Universal  
Service Program Workgroup



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 303  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3606 · 301-858-3606  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3606  
Benjamin.Brooks@senate.state.md.us

*District Office*  
Windsor Mill Office  
8419 Liberty Road, Suite B  
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244  
410-496-4037

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 593**  
**Education – Student Athletic Activities – Physical Examinations and**  
**Cardiovascular Prescreening**

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
March 4, 2026

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 593, Education – Student Athletic Activities – Physical Examinations and Cardiovascular Prescreening.

SB 593 is a straightforward but critical measure that requires cardiovascular prescreening as part of the physical fitness examinations for students participating in interscholastic athletics. Intense physical exertion can exacerbate underlying heart conditions, placing students with undiagnosed cardiovascular issues at serious risk. Research shows that high school athletes experience sudden cardiac arrest at rates more than 350 percent higher than their non-athlete peers.

This bill builds upon the important work already undertaken by the Maryland General Assembly to prevent cardiovascular-related deaths in school athletics. In 2024, the General Assembly enacted the Bailey Bullock Act, which required public and nonpublic schools to establish cardiac emergency response plans. SB 593 complements that effort by shifting the focus upstream—prioritizing prevention and early identification of risk, rather than relying solely on emergency response after a crisis occurs.

In May 2024, the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association adopted a preparticipation physical evaluation form that includes cardiovascular prescreening and guidance for referrals to cardiology when warranted. SB 593 strengthens and formalizes this progress by establishing these prescreening practices in statute and extending them to students participating in nonpublic interscholastic athletics.

The bill also expands existing cardiac arrest awareness requirements to nonpublic schools, ensuring that coaches, school personnel, students, and parents receive consistent, evidence-based information. This includes education on warning signs, the dangers of playing through symptoms, and the importance of timely medical evaluation, providing all student-athletes equitable access to potentially life-saving knowledge.

SB 593 enhances the safety of Maryland's student-athletes by mandating cardiovascular prescreening as part of every preparticipation physical examination. By identifying risks earlier and promoting awareness across all school settings, this bill takes a proactive and responsible step to protect students before tragedy strikes.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 593.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Benjamin Brooks