

BILL: Senate Bill 593
TITLE: Education – Student Athletic Activities – Physical Examinations and Cardiovascular Prescreening
HEARING DATE: March 4, 2026
POSITION: Letter of Information
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all 24 local boards of education in Maryland, provides this **letter of information for SB 593 Education – Student Athletic Activities – Physical Examinations and Cardiovascular Prescreening.**

SB 593 requires schools to require cardiovascular prescreening for student athletes in addition to a physical exam to be cleared for participation. A cardiovascular prescreening must occur within 90 days of the first day of the school year in which the student intends to participate in sports. Collaboratively, MSDE and the Maryland Department of Health must develop guidelines to increase healthcare provider knowledge and awareness of cardiovascular prescreening for children. Additionally, schools must report information to their respective county board or county health department containing data regarding student physical exams and cardiovascular screenings, and students who received referrals for further testing. County boards or county health departments must then report this information to the Maryland Department of Health, who must then publish the data.

MABE acknowledges the importance of physical exams and cardiovascular screenings for student athletes ensuring adequate health for participation and overall safety. Student safety remains a priority for MABE and its members, and we provide the below information for the General Assembly’s consideration.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that all students receive a preparticipation physical evaluation (PPE) before their first preseason practice. The frequency and specifics of a PPE are determined by each state. The standard sports physical includes an in-depth medical history evaluation that considers cardiovascular, neurologic, respiratory, musculoskeletal, and mental health, among other factors. The goal is to identify symptoms that can be warning signs of an underlying risk. Maryland’s Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA) developed a recommended preparticipation physical [form](#), which notably includes detailed questions related to cardiovascular health. It includes a space for a physician to note any abnormal heart findings, and notes that doctors and parents should “consider ECG, Echocardiogram, and referral to cardiology if abnormal cardiac history/exam or family history to address sudden

cardiac arrest and sudden cardiac death risk.” This form aligns with the AAP recommendation and appears to meet the requirements of SB 593.

Because the MPSSAA recommended preparticipation physical form appears to meet the cardiovascular prescreening requirements in SB 593, MABE recommends that the General Assembly consider whether the cardiovascular prescreening requirement in SB 593 is necessary. We would like to note our support for SB 593’s requirement for additional guidance for health care providers on cardiovascular prescreening for children participating in youth sports, as the health and safety of Maryland’s students is a top priority for MABE.