



Summary

Maryland House Bill 858/Senate Bill 771

Student-Athletes and Concussions

On May 19, 2011, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley signed House Bill (HB) 858 and Senate Bill (SB) 771, "Education - Public Schools and Youth Sports Programs – Concussions," into law. This law will help protect the state's student-athletes from the dangers of suffering a concussion.

Bill sponsors: Delegate Sheila Hixson (District 20-Montgomery County) and Senator Joan Carter Conway (District 43-Baltimore City)

Key Provisions

- Requires education of coaches, student-athletes, parents, and other school personnel about the nature and risk of concussions.
- Directs the Maryland State Department of Education to develop educational materials with the assistance of relevant stakeholders.
- Requires coaches, student-athletes, and parents to verify that they have received the educational materials when they participate in athletic competition.
- Requires automatic removal from play (game or practice) of the student-athlete who shows signs or symptoms of a concussion.
- Requires that the student-athlete who is suspected of suffering a concussion receive written clearance from a licensed healthcare professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions before returning to the field of play.
- Applies to:
 - Student-athletes who attend public schools;
 - Student-athletes who participate in youth sports leagues that are played on public school lands; and
 - Student-athletes who participate in parks & recreation sports leagues.
- Effective Date: July 1, 2011

Prepared by the Department of Government and External Affairs

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