

HOUSE BILL 343

F1
HB 1429/20 – W&M

3lr1201

By: **Delegates Boyce, Bridges, Edelson, Embry, Kaufman, Lehman, McCaskill, Phillips, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2023

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Public School Athletics – Basketball Schedule**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing rules for public school athletic schedules for basketball,
4 including the maximum number of games played per week and season and the
5 number of tournament games played each year; requiring each county board of
6 education to decide whether to authorize a team to play in a tournament or showcase
7 game; prohibiting a student from being disciplined for not participating in a game or
8 practice that occurs outside of the school year; and generally relating to the
9 basketball schedule for public schools.

10 BY adding to
11 Article – Education
12 Section 7–118
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Education**

18 **7–118.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
2 INDICATED.

3 (2) "GAME" MEANS A SINGLE SPORTS COMPETITION BETWEEN TWO
4 TEAMS.

5 (3) "TOURNAMENT" MEANS A SERIES OF GAMES THAT MAKE UP A
6 SINGLE UNIT OF COMPETITION IN WHICH MULTIPLE TEAMS PLAY UNTIL ONE TEAM
7 WINS.

8 (B) ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL ATHLETIC SCHEDULES FOR BASKETBALL SHALL
9 COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION.

10 (C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A
11 BASKETBALL TEAM MAY NOT PLAY MORE THAN TWO GAMES PER WEEK.

12 (2) A TEAM MAY ELECT TO PLAY THREE GAMES PER WEEK TWICE
13 DURING THE BASKETBALL SEASON.

14 (D) (1) THE BASKETBALL SEASON SHALL CONSIST OF:

15 (I) 20 REGULAR SEASON GAMES FOR A TEAM THAT ELECTS TO
16 PLAY IN A TOURNAMENT; AND

17 (II) 22 REGULAR SEASON GAMES FOR A TEAM THAT DOES NOT
18 ELECT TO PLAY IN A TOURNAMENT.

19 (2) THE BASKETBALL SEASON DOES NOT INCLUDE GAMES PLAYED AS
20 PART OF A TOURNAMENT.

21 (E) (1) (I) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (2) ~~AND (3)~~, (3), AND (4) OF THIS
22 SUBSECTION, IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR SEASON GAMES AUTHORIZED UNDER
23 SUBSECTION (D)(1) OF THIS SECTION, EACH YEAR A TEAM MAY PLAY IN UP TO FOUR
24 TOURNAMENT GAMES AND A NUMBER OF SHOWCASE GAMES DETERMINED BY THE
25 COUNTY BOARD, INCLUDING DURING A NCAA EVALUATION PERIOD.

26 (II) A TOURNAMENT OR SHOWCASE MAY BE SCHEDULED
27 OUTSIDE THE NORMAL BASKETBALL SEASON.

28 (III) A STATE TEAM MAY PLAY IN A TOURNAMENT OR SHOWCASE
29 GAME AGAINST A TEAM FROM OUTSIDE THE STATE IF THE OUT-OF-STATE TEAM HAS
30 EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATIONS TO THOSE REQUIRED OF THE STATE TEAM.

1 **(2) (I) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DECIDE WHETHER TO**
2 **AUTHORIZE A TEAM TO PLAY IN A TOURNAMENT.**

3 **(II) A COUNTY BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE A TEAM TO:**

4 **1. PLAY IN AN ALREADY SCHEDULED TOURNAMENT; OR**

5 **2. PLAY IN A TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED BY THE COUNTY**
6 **BOARD.**

7 **(3) (I) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DECIDE WHETHER TO**
8 **AUTHORIZE A TEAM TO PLAY IN SHOWCASE GAMES.**

9 **(II) A COUNTY BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE A TEAM TO:**

10 **1. PLAY IN AN ALREADY SCHEDULED SHOWCASE GAME**
11 **OR SERIES OF GAMES; OR**

12 **2. PLAY IN SHOWCASE GAMES SCHEDULED BY A COUNTY**
13 **BOARD.**

14 **(III) A COUNTY BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE TEAMS TO PLAY IN ANY**
15 **NUMBER OF SHOWCASE GAMES.**

16 **(4) A STUDENT MAY NOT BE DISCIPLINED IN ANY MANNER,**
17 **INCLUDING THROUGH THE LOSS OR REASSIGNMENT OF A STUDENT’S POSITION ON**
18 **THE TEAM, FOR NOT PARTICIPATING IN A GAME OR PRACTICE THAT OCCURS**
19 **OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.**

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
21 1, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.