

Chapter 734

(Senate Bill 165)

AN ACT concerning

Education – Coaches – Mental Health Training

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, each county board of education, and the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association, to develop guidelines for public schools to train coaches to recognize indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students; requiring each public school in the State that offers ~~a mainstream~~ an athletic program to provide a certain mental health training to coaches; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, to develop guidelines for public institutions of higher education to train coaches to recognize indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students; requiring a public institution of higher education that offers an athletic program to provide a certain mental health training to coaches; and generally relating to coaches and mental health training.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7–452 and 15–130.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Education**7–452.**

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “~~MAINSTREAM~~ ATHLETIC PROGRAM” MEANS AN INTRAMURAL ~~OR~~, INTERSCHOLASTIC, OR OTHER SCHOOL SPONSORED ATHLETIC ACTIVITY PROGRAM THAT IS DEVELOPED AND OFFERED TO STUDENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EACH COUNTY BOARD, AND THE MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO TRAIN COACHES TO RECOGNIZE INDICATORS OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS IN STUDENTS, INCLUDING:

(1) DEPRESSION;

- (2) TRAUMA;
- (3) VIOLENCE;
- (4) YOUTH SUICIDE; AND
- (5) SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

(C) EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE THAT OFFERS ~~A MAINSTREAM AN~~ ATHLETIC PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION TO EACH COACH PARTICIPATING IN THE ~~MAINSTREAM~~ ATHLETIC PROGRAM.

15-130.1.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “ATHLETIC PROGRAM” MEANS ANY INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAM AT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

(B) THE COMMISSION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO TRAIN COACHES TO RECOGNIZE INDICATORS OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS IN STUDENTS, INCLUDING:

- (1) DEPRESSION;
- (2) TRAUMA;
- (3) VIOLENCE;
- (4) YOUTH SUICIDE; AND
- (5) SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

(C) A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT OFFERS AN ATHLETIC PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION TO EACH COACH PARTICIPATING IN THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.