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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D. *BS*
DATE: August 30, 2011
SUBJECT: *HB 364 Student Participation in High School Sports – Minimum Academic Requirements – Proposed Standards*

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this communication is to provide an overview of MSDE's plan and timeline for meeting the statutory requirements of HB 364.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Current regulations (COMAR 13A.06.03.02 (B) require:

“Each local school system shall establish standards of participation which assure that students involved in interscholastic athletics are making satisfactory progress toward graduation.”

During the 2011 legislative session, *HB 364 Student Participation in High School Sports-Minimum Academic Requirements-Proposed Standards* was enacted requiring the State Board of Education to recommend minimum academic eligibility standards for students participating in interscholastic athletics.

To facilitate that process, an advisory committee has been established to review current local and other State practices and provide to the Board suggested standards to recommend to local school systems. That committee is comprised of superintendents, principals, athletic supervisors, athletic directors, and coaches. Their report will be submitted at the October meeting of the State Board of Education.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

HB 364 Student Participation in High School Sports-Minimum Academic Requirements-Proposed Standards requires the State Board to recommend by December 31, 2011, minimum academic eligibility standards for participation in interscholastic athletics. Currently an advisory committee is working to draft standards to recommend and present to the Board on October 25, 2011.

Members of the State Board of Education
August 30, 2011
Page 2

ACTION:

For information only.

BJS:efs

Attachment: HB 364

HOUSE BILL 364

F1

(1lr0747)

ENROLLED BILL

— Ways and Means / Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs —

Introduced by Delegate Walker

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Student Participation in High School Sports - Minimum Academic**
3 **Requirements - Proposed Standards**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education, *in consultation with*
5 *county boards of education*, to ~~adopt regulations to establish report to certain~~
6 ~~committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date regarding~~ certain
7 academic performance standards that students in public high schools in the
8 State ~~must~~ *should* meet in order to participate in certain high school athletic
9 competitions; requiring the ~~regulations~~ *report* to include certain ~~provisions~~
10 ~~recommendations~~; ~~requiring county boards of education to allow certain~~
11 ~~students to participate in certain high school athletic competitions only in~~
12 ~~accordance with the regulations of the State Board~~; and generally relating to
13 academic requirements for student participation in high school sports.

14 ~~BY adding to~~

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.

Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.



1 ~~Article Education~~
2 ~~Section 7-205.1~~
3 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
4 ~~(2008 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)~~

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

7 ~~Article Education~~

8 ~~7-205.1.~~

9 ~~(A) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO~~
10 ~~ESTABLISH ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE STANDARDS THAT STUDENTS IN PUBLIC~~
11 ~~HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE STATE MUST MEET IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN~~
12 ~~ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS SANCTIONED BY A COUNTY BOARD.~~

13 ~~(2) THE REGULATIONS SHALL INCLUDE PROVISIONS THAT~~
14 ~~SPECIFY THE CURRICULUM CONTENT, MINIMUM GRADE POINT AVERAGE, AND~~
15 ~~GRADE PROGRESS THAT PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MUST SATISFY TO BE~~
16 ~~ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS SANCTIONED BY THE~~
17 ~~COUNTY BOARD.~~

18 ~~(B) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL ALLOW STUDENTS IN PUBLIC HIGH~~
19 ~~SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS~~
20 ~~SANCTIONED BY THE COUNTY BOARD ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE~~
21 ~~REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD. *on or before December 31, 2011, the State*~~
22 ~~*Board of Education, in consultation with the county boards of education, shall report,*~~
23 ~~*in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Education,*~~
24 ~~*Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and*~~
25 ~~*Means, regarding the minimum academic performance standards that students in*~~
26 ~~*public high schools in the State should meet in order to participate in athletic*~~
27 ~~*competitions sanctioned by a county board of education. The report shall include*~~
28 ~~*recommendations regarding the curriculum content, minimum grade point average,*~~
29 ~~*and grade progress that public high school students should satisfy to be eligible to*~~
30 ~~*participate in athletic competitions sanctioned by the county board.*~~

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 ~~October~~ June 1, 2011.