

# Legislative Analysis

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## REQUIRE AMBULANCES FOR CERTAIN INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTING EVENTS

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 4939 as Introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Santana**  
**Committee: Appropriations**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

**Complete to 12-1-15**

### **SUMMARY:**

House Bill 4939 would add Section 1180 to the Revised School Code to require that an ambulance, along with appropriate emergency medical services personnel, is present at any interscholastic athletic event sponsored by a school district involving football or another sport or activity that the district considers to be high contact or otherwise reasonably likely to result in serious injury.

Ambulances would be defined as it is under Section 20902 of the Public Health Code (MCL 333.20902) and would mean a motor vehicle or rotary aircraft that is primarily used or designated as available to provide transportation and basic life support, limited advanced life support, or advanced life support.

Emergency medical services personnel would be defined as it is under Section 20904 of the Public Health Code (MCL 333.20904) and would mean a medical first responder, emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician specialist, paramedic, or emergency medical services instructor-coordinator.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state, but would increase costs to local districts by an indeterminate amount depending on whether they already have an ambulance and required personnel at interscholastic football events and any other sporting events deemed necessary by district school board or public school academy board of directors.

The estimated cost for high school football teams statewide would be \$1.9 million per year. The estimated total cost for all high school sports statewide (excluding several that would not likely be included) could be \$37.3 million per year. Data for high school athletics is available from the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA); however, there is no data for middle school athletics. There would be an indeterminate cost increase to districts for middle school athletics in addition to the cost estimate above for high school athletics.

Further details regarding the available data and HFA assumptions used to create the cost estimate for high school athletics are described in more detail below.

There are no statewide data available for the average cost of hiring an ambulance and emergency personnel to be present at a sporting event, but according to information from several sources, the approximate cost is likely to be \$100 per hour. However, many areas of the state may not have enough ambulances and emergency personnel crews to cover each event. Currently in many areas, a school district arranges with its local unit of government to have an ambulance/crew, that would otherwise be parked elsewhere, park at the game instead at no cost to the district. However, if another emergency call comes in, the crew leaves, so this arrangement would not likely satisfy the requirements proposed under HB 4939. Local units of government and private entities may not find it worthwhile to increase capacity for limited busy times of the day or week. Scarcity could drive up the cost of having an ambulance present.

For football, assuming an average duration of three hours per game, the cost per game would be approximately \$300. If each school had more than one football team (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshmen), the cost would double or triple depending on the number. Assuming 2 teams per school, roughly 10 regular season games per year, and that only one school pays for an ambulance and personnel per game, the approximate cost for *a single high school football program* would be \$3,000 per year. MHSAA records indicate that during the 2014-15 school year, there were 630 schools with football teams. The approximate cost for *statewide high school football programs* would be \$1.9 million per year.

HB 4939 could create much higher costs for districts depending on the extent to which a district deems another sport “high contact or otherwise reasonably likely to result in serious injury.” Football has a limited schedule compared to many other sports, in which teams play two or more games a week for several months. Taking into account average schedules for individual sports, an average of two teams per participating school per sport, and a 3-hour duration for events, (while excluding sports like bowling, golf, swimming and diving, tennis, and volleyball for which it would be less likely to be deemed necessary), the approximate statewide cost would be an additional \$35.4 million (for a total \$37.3 million when including football). The two most expensive sports would be basketball and soccer at \$8.3 and \$5.6 million respectively.

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