

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To protect the name, image, and likeness rights of, and provide protections for, student athletes and to promote fair competition among intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To protect the name, image, and likeness rights of, and provide protections for, student athletes and to promote fair competition among intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Protect College Sports Act of 2026”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—PROTECTIONS OF STUDENT ATHLETES AND FAIR
COMPETITION

- Sec. 100. Definitions.
- Sec. 101. Name, image, and likeness protections.
- Sec. 102. Modifications to Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act.
- Sec. 103. Agent registry requirements for intercollegiate athletic associations.
- Sec. 104. Disclosures and establishment of name, image, and likeness agreement database.
- Sec. 105. Academic protections.
- Sec. 106. Medical coverage requirements.
- Sec. 107. Health, wellness, and safety standards.
- Sec. 108. Office of the Student Athlete Ombudsman.
- Sec. 109. Comparable standards for access to facilities, services, and events.
- Sec. 110. Rules governing certain mid-season coaching transitions.
- Sec. 111. Student athlete representation on intercollegiate athletic association governing boards.
- Sec. 112. Transfer protections.
- Sec. 113. Eligibility to participate in intercollegiate sports.
- Sec. 114. Prohibited compensation and agreements.
- Sec. 115. Extension of the revenue share cap.
- Sec. 116. Commission on the Future of College Athletics.
- Sec. 117. Recruitment and tampering.
- Sec. 118. Limitation on liability.
- Sec. 119. Private right of action.
- Sec. 120. Whistleblower protection.
- Sec. 121. Relationship to existing law.
- Sec. 122. Neutrality on employee or non-employee status.
- Sec. 123. Applicability.
- Sec. 124. Severability.

TITLE II—SPORTS BROADCASTING

- Sec. 201. Definitions.
- Sec. 202. Limitation on liability for transmission of collegiate sports competitions.
- Sec. 203. Requirements for entities selling media rights.
- Sec. 204. Market level broadcast access for college football and basketball.
- Sec. 205. Prohibition on certain conference mergers or acquisition.
- Sec. 206. Amendments to intercollegiate and interscholastic football contest limitations.
- Sec. 207. Media rights utilization requirement for college sports other than football and basketball.

1 **TITLE I—PROTECTIONS OF STU-**
 2 **DENT ATHLETES AND FAIR**
 3 **COMPETITION**

4 **SEC. 100. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this title:

1 (1) ANTITRUST LAWS.—The term “antitrust
2 laws” has the meaning given that term in the 1st
3 section of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12) and in-
4 cludes—

5 (A) section 5 of the Federal Trade Com-
6 mission Act (15 U.S.C. 45) to the extent that
7 such section 5 applies to unfair methods of
8 competition; and

9 (B) any similar State antitrust law, includ-
10 ing a State law provision that applies to cov-
11 ering unfair methods of competition having the
12 force and effect of law.

13 (2) ASSOCIATED ENTITY.—The term “associ-
14 ated entity” means any individual or entity, includ-
15 ing a collective, that is—

16 (A) known, or should have been known, to
17 exist for or act for the benefit of, in coordina-
18 tion with, or at the direction of an institution
19 to promote or support an institution’s athletics
20 program or student athletes, including by cre-
21 ating or identifying name, image, and likeness
22 compensation opportunities for an institution’s
23 student athletes;

24 (B) an individual or entity that is or was
25 a member, employee, director, officer, owner, or

1 agent of an individual or entity described in
2 subparagraph (A);

3 (C) an individual or entity that directly or
4 indirectly (including contributions by an affili-
5 ated entity, individual, or family member) has
6 contributed more than \$50,000 over their life-
7 time to a particular institution or to an indi-
8 vidual or entity described in subparagraph (A);

9 (D) an individual or entity that has di-
10 rectly or indirectly been directed or requested
11 by an institution or third party acting on behalf
12 of, for the benefit of, in coordination with, or
13 at the direction of an institution to assist in the
14 recruitment or retention of student athletes or
15 prospective student athletes, or otherwise has
16 assisted in the recruitment or retention of stu-
17 dent athletes or prospective student athletes; or

18 (E) an individual or entity owned, con-
19 trolled, or operated by, or otherwise affiliated
20 with the individuals or entities described in sub-
21 paragraph (A).

22 (3) ATHLETE AGENT.—The term “athlete
23 agent” has the meaning given that term in section
24 2 of the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act
25 (15 U.S.C. 7801).

1 (4) COLLECTIVE.—The term “collective”—

2 (A) means a person, corporation, booster
3 organization, tax-exempt organization, or other
4 entity that provides donations or other support
5 directly or indirectly to or for the benefit or
6 support of—

7 (i) a student athlete who is enrolled,
8 or who may enroll, at an institution; or

9 (ii) the intercollegiate athletics pro-
10 gram or any booster organization of an in-
11 stitution; and

12 (B) does not include—

13 (i) an immediate family member of a
14 student athlete; or

15 (ii) an individual or entity that—

16 (I) licenses trademark rights of
17 an institution; and

18 (II) does not—

19 (aa) license name, image,
20 and likeness rights of student
21 athletes; or

22 (bb) make payments ear-
23 marked or designated to fund
24 name, image, or likeness licenses

1 or other payments to student
2 athletes.

3 (5) COMPENSATION.—The term “compensa-
4 tion”—

5 (A) means any payment, remuneration, or
6 benefit provided to a student athlete or a pro-
7 spective student athlete; and

8 (B) does not include—

9 (i) grants-in-aid;

10 (ii) Federal Pell Grants provided
11 under section 401 of the Higher Education
12 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) or any
13 other Federal or State grants unrelated to
14 and not awarded with regard to participa-
15 tion in intercollegiate sports;

16 (iii) health insurance and the costs of
17 health care funded by an institution, inter-
18 collegiate athletic association, or con-
19 ference;

20 (iv) disability and loss-of-value insur-
21 ance, including disability and loss-of-value
22 insurance funded by an institution, inter-
23 collegiate athletic association, or con-
24 ference;

1 (v) career counseling, job placement
2 services, or other guidance available to all
3 students at an institution;

4 (vi) hourly wages and benefits for
5 work performed outside of participating in
6 intercollegiate sports at a rate commensu-
7 rate with the prevailing rate in the relevant
8 State or locality for similar work;

9 (vii) enhanced education benefits, in-
10 cluding academic awards;

11 (viii) financial literacy or tax edu-
12 cation resources; or

13 (ix) any program to connect student
14 athletes with employers and facilitate em-
15 ployment opportunities, if—

16 (I) the financial terms of such
17 employment opportunities are con-
18 sistent with the terms offered to simi-
19 larly situated employees who are not
20 student athletes; and

21 (II) such program is not used to
22 induce a student athlete to attend a
23 particular institution.

1 (6) CONFERENCE.—The term “conference”
2 means any organization that is not an intercollegiate
3 athletic association and that—

4 (A) has 2 or more institutions as members;
5 and

6 (B) arranges championships for intercolle-
7 giate athletic competitions or sets rules for
8 intercollegiate athletic competition.

9 (7) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—The term “cost of
10 attendance”—

11 (A) has the meaning given that term in
12 section 472 of the Higher Education Act of
13 1965 (20 U.S.C. 10871l); and

14 (B) shall be calculated by the financial aid
15 office of an institution applying the same stand-
16 ards, policies, and procedures for all students.

17 (8) GRANT-IN-AID.—The term “grant-in-aid”
18 means—

19 (A) a scholarship, grant, stipend, or other
20 form of financial assistance, including the provi-
21 sion of tuition, room, board, books, or funds for
22 fees or personal expenses, that—

23 (i) is paid or provided by an institu-
24 tion to a student for the undergraduate or
25 graduate education of the student; and

1 (ii) is in an amount that does not ex-
2 ceed the cost of attendance for such stu-
3 dent at the institution; and

4 (B) does not include compensation paid to
5 a student athlete.

6 (9) IMAGE.—With respect to a student athlete,
7 the term “image” means a picture, video, computer-
8 generated representation, or other depiction that
9 identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linked to the
10 student athlete.

11 (10) INSTITUTION.—Except as otherwise explic-
12 itly provided, the term “institution” has the mean-
13 ing given the term “institution of higher education”
14 under section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
15 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

16 (11) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-
17 TION.—The term “intercollegiate athletic associa-
18 tion”—

19 (A) means any organization, not-for-profit
20 corporation, association, or any other group or-
21 ganized in the United States that—

22 (i) sponsors or arranges intercollegiate
23 athletic competition between institutions;

24 (ii) sets common rules, standards,
25 procedures, or guidelines for the adminis-

1 tration of intercollegiate athletic competi-
2 tion;

3 (iii) is composed of 2 or more institu-
4 tions or conferences that are located in dif-
5 ferent States or participate in intercolle-
6 giate athletic competition in more than 1
7 State; and

8 (iv) is not a conference;

9 (B) includes—

10 (i) the National Collegiate Athletic
11 Association; and

12 (ii) any other national intercollegiate
13 athletic association; and

14 (C) does not include a corporation, associa-
15 tion, or other group affiliated with professional
16 athletic competition.

17 (12) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC COMPETI-
18 TION.—The term “intercollegiate athletic competi-
19 tion” means any intercollegiate sport contest, game,
20 meet, match, tournament, regatta, or other inter-
21 collegiate sport event in which student athletes or
22 varsity sports teams compete.

23 (13) INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT.—The term
24 “intercollegiate sport”—

1 (A) means a sport played between institu-
2 tions for which eligibility requirements for par-
3 ticipation by a student athlete are established
4 by an interstate intercollegiate athletic associa-
5 tion; and

6 (B) does not include a recreational, intra-
7 mural, or club sport.

8 (14) LIKENESS.—With respect to a student
9 athlete, the term “likeness” means a physical or dig-
10 ital depiction or representation that identifies, is
11 linked to, or is reasonably linked to the student ath-
12 lete, including —

13 (A) the uniquely identifiable body, physical
14 characteristics, or voice of the student athlete;

15 (B) any other mark that identifies or dis-
16 tinguishes the student athlete; or

17 (C) the jersey number associated with the
18 student athlete during the period of athletic
19 participation by the student athlete at an insti-
20 tution if the jersey number is accompanied by—

21 (i) a logo or color scheme that is
22 clearly associated with the institution; or

23 (ii) some other means by which the
24 jersey number is associated with the stu-
25 dent athlete.

1 (15) NAME.—With respect to a student athlete,
2 the term “name” means the first or last name that
3 identifies the student athlete, a nickname or as-
4 sumed name of the student athlete, or a username
5 associated with the student athlete on any public-
6 facing internet platform when used in a context that
7 identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linked to the
8 student athlete.

9 (16) NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS AGREE-
10 MENT.—The term “name, image, and likeness agree-
11 ment” means a contract or similar agreement be-
12 tween a student athlete (or group of student ath-
13 letes) and a conference, institution, intercollegiate
14 athletic association, associated entity, collective, or
15 third party regarding the commercial use of the
16 name, image, and likeness rights of the student ath-
17 lete (or group of student athletes).

18 (17) NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS RIGHTS.—
19 The term “name, image, and likeness rights” means
20 the ability of a student athlete to market and profit
21 from the commercial use of his or her name, image,
22 or likeness.

23 (18) PROSPECTIVE STUDENT ATHLETE.—The
24 term “prospective student athlete” means an indi-
25 vidual who is recruited, actively being recruited, or

1 has been contacted for the purposes of recruitment
2 to attend an institution as a student athlete, but has
3 not yet enrolled at the institution.

4 (19) REVENUE SHARE CAP.—The term “rev-
5 enue share cap” means the Benefits Pool Limit set
6 forth in the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agreement
7 approved by the court in “In Re College Athlete
8 NIL Legislation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal.
9 June 6, 2025), or as modified pursuant to the
10 amendment provision specified in paragraph 55 of
11 that settlement.

12 (20) STUDENT ATHLETE.—The term “student
13 athlete” means an individual who is enrolled as a
14 full-time student at an institution and who—

15 (A) makes satisfactory progress towards
16 completing a degree; and

17 (B) participates in intercollegiate athletic
18 competition or competes for a varsity sports
19 team as part of the institution’s educational,
20 developmental, or extracurricular programs.

21 (21) THIRD PARTY.—The term “third party”
22 means an individual or entity that is not an institu-
23 tion, associated entity, collective, conference, or
24 intercollegiate athletic association.

1 (22) VALID BUSINESS PURPOSE.—The term
2 “valid business purpose” means a purpose genuinely
3 related to the promotion of goods or services pro-
4 vided to the general public for profit.

5 (23) VARSITY SPORTS TEAM.—The term “var-
6 sity sports team” means a sports team composed of
7 student athletes that is organized by an institution
8 for the purpose of intercollegiate athletic competi-
9 tion.

10 **SEC. 101. NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS PROTECTIONS.**

11 (a) STUDENT ATHLETE NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKE-
12 NESS COMPENSATION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this
14 title, an institution, conference, intercollegiate ath-
15 letic association, or any representative of such an
16 entity may not—

17 (A) restrict the ability of a student athlete,
18 group of student athletes, or prospective stu-
19 dent athlete—

20 (i) to market or earn compensation
21 for the value of their name, image, or like-
22 ness rights; or

23 (ii) to enter into a name, image, and
24 likeness agreement;

1 (B) restrict the eligibility for intercollegiate
2 athletic competition for a student athlete or
3 prospective student athlete on the basis of the
4 student athlete or prospective student athlete
5 entering into a name, image, and likeness
6 agreement or marketing or earning compensa-
7 tion for the value of their name, image, or like-
8 ness;

9 (C) unless otherwise required by law, limit
10 the eligibility or opportunity of a student ath-
11 lete or prospective student athlete to apply for
12 or receive a grant-in-aid, including the amount,
13 duration, or renewal of such grant-in-aid, on
14 the basis of the student athlete or prospective
15 student athlete entering into a name, image,
16 and likeness agreement, or marketing or earn-
17 ing compensation for the value of their name,
18 image, or likeness; or

19 (D) unless otherwise required by law, re-
20 voke, reduce, or decline to renew a grant-in-aid
21 for a student athlete or prospective student ath-
22 lete based on the student athlete or prospective
23 student athlete entering into a name, image,
24 and likeness agreement or marketing or earning

1 compensation for the value of their name,
2 image, or likeness.

3 (2) CONSENT AND COMPENSATION FOR GROUP
4 USE.—An institution, conference, intercollegiate ath-
5 letic association, collective, third party, or any rep-
6 resentative thereof, may not use the name, image, or
7 likeness of any group of student athletes to sell or
8 promote any product or service unless the institu-
9 tion, conference, athletic association, collective, or
10 third party, as the case may be, obtains an agree-
11 ment from each member of the group for that pur-
12 pose.

13 (3) EXCEPTIONS.—

14 (A) CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.—An institu-
15 tion may restrict the eligibility for intercolle-
16 giate athletic competition of a student athlete
17 or prospective student athlete who enters into a
18 name, image, and likeness agreement that vio-
19 lates the code of student conduct of the institu-
20 tion that applies to all students enrolled at the
21 institution.

22 (B) CERTAIN USES.—An institution may
23 restrict the eligibility for intercollegiate athletic
24 competition of a student athlete or prospective
25 student athlete if, in connection with a name,

1 image, and likeness agreement, the student ath-
2 lete or prospective student athlete uses a facil-
3 ity, uniform, equipment, registered or unregis-
4 tered trademark, copyright-protected product,
5 or the official logo, mark, or other indicia of the
6 institution without the express consent of the
7 institution.

8 (b) MANDATORY DISCLOSURES BY STUDENT ATH-
9 LETES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—All student athletes shall re-
11 port to their institution—

12 (A) not later than 30 days after entering
13 into a name, image, and likeness agreement,
14 the terms of any such agreement that exceeds
15 \$600 in value, including multiple payments, re-
16 munerations, or benefits from the same entity
17 that exceeds a total of \$600 over a 12-month
18 period; and

19 (B) to the extent not reported under sub-
20 paragraph (A), not later than 30 days after re-
21 ceiving compensation for the name, image, or
22 likeness of the student athlete, the amount and
23 source of any such compensation that exceeds
24 \$600, including multiple payments, remunera-

1 tions, or benefits from the same entity that ex-
2 ceeds a total of \$600 over a 12-month period.

3 (2) MANDATORY DISCLOSURES BY RECRUITED
4 ATHLETES.—With respect to a student athlete or
5 prospective student athlete who is recruited to at-
6 tend, but is not yet enrolled in, an institution, the
7 student athlete or prospective student athlete shall
8 report to the institution—

9 (A) the terms of any current or ongoing
10 name, image, and likeness agreement that ex-
11 ceeds \$600 in value, including multiple pay-
12 ments, remunerations, or benefits from the
13 same entity that exceeds a total of \$600 over
14 a 12-month period; and

15 (B) to the extent not reported under sub-
16 paragraph (A), the amount and source of any
17 current or ongoing name, image, and likeness
18 compensation that exceeds \$600, including mul-
19 tiple payments, remunerations, or benefits from
20 the same person that exceeds a total of \$600
21 over a 12-month period.

22 (3) EXCEPTION.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1) and (2)
24 shall not apply to either marketing or earning
25 compensation for the value of the name, image,

1 and likeness rights of a student athlete or to
2 the compensation within a name, image, and
3 likeness agreement in which a student athlete
4 receives less than \$600, including multiple pay-
5 ments, remunerations, or benefits from the
6 same person that totals less than \$600 over a
7 12-month period.

8 (B) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—An
9 intercollegiate athletic association shall adjust
10 the amount described in clause (i) for inflation
11 by the percent increase, if any, in the Consumer
12 Price Index for All Urban Consumers published
13 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the De-
14 partment of Labor for the most recent 12-
15 month period for which applicable data is avail-
16 able.

17 (4) RELEASE OF INFORMATION.—Except as
18 provided in section 104, an institution may not re-
19 lease any information provided by a student athlete
20 or prospective student athlete in a disclosure under
21 paragraph (1) or (2) without the express written
22 consent of the student athlete, prospective student
23 athlete, athlete agent of the student athlete or pro-
24 spective student athlete, or, in case of a minor, the
25 parent or legal guardian of the minor.

1 (5) LIMITATION.—This subsection shall apply
2 only to Division I institutions as defined by bylaw
3 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association,
4 or a successor bylaw, and student athletes or pro-
5 spective student athletes of such institutions.

6 (c) NAME, IMAGE, OR LIKENESS COMPENSATION BY
7 INSTITUTIONS.—Subject to the requirements of this title,
8 an institution, intercollegiate athletic association, con-
9 ference, collective, associated entity, or third party, may
10 pay, provide, or facilitate compensation to a student ath-
11 lete for the use of the name, image, or likeness of the stu-
12 dent athlete.

13 (d) RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION.—An institution,
14 intercollegiate athletic association, or conference may not
15 restrict the eligibility for intercollegiate athletic competi-
16 tion, or any other event or activity relating to intercolle-
17 giate athletic competition, of a prospective student athlete
18 or student athlete based on the prospective student athlete
19 or student athlete having obtained an athlete agent or
20 legal representative.

21 (e) EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES REGARDING THIS
22 TITLE.—An intercollegiate athletic association shall pro-
23 vide student athletes and prospective student athletes and
24 the parents or guardians of student athletes or prospective

1 student athletes with educational materials relating to this
2 title.

3 **SEC. 102. MODIFICATIONS TO SPORTS AGENT RESPONSIBI-**
4 **BILITY AND TRUST ACT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Sports Agent Responsibility
6 and Trust Act (15 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) is amended—

7 (1) in section 2 (15 U.S.C. 7801)—

8 (A) in paragraph (5), by inserting before
9 the period the following: “and includes any
10 name, image, and likeness agreement as defined
11 in section 100 of the Protect College Sports Act
12 of 2026”;

13 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (6)
14 through (9) as paragraphs (7) through (10), re-
15 spectively; and

16 (C) by inserting after paragraph (5) the
17 following:

18 “(6) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-
19 TION.—The term ‘intercollegiate athletic association’
20 has the meaning given that term in section 100 of
21 Protect College Sports Act of 2026”;

22 (2) in section 3 (15 U.S.C. 7802)—

23 (A) in subsection (a)—

24 (i) in paragraph (2), by striking “or”
25 at the end;

1 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting a semi-
3 colon; and

4 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(4) enter into an agency contract or represent
7 a student athlete in a manner that violates section
8 9;

9 “(5) charge a student athlete a fee in connec-
10 tion with an endorsement contract that exceeds 5
11 percent of the value of the endorsement contract;

12 “(6) enter into an agency contract with an ath-
13 lete for a term that extends beyond the eligibility of
14 the student athlete to participate in intercollegiate
15 sport;

16 “(7) make any materially false, deceptive, or
17 fraudulent representation as an athlete agent, in-
18 cluding any materially false, deceptive, or fraudulent
19 statement to a student athlete or prospective student
20 athlete that misrepresents the existence, nature, or
21 value of a name, image, or likeness opportunity the
22 athlete agent can arrange on behalf of the student
23 athlete or prospective student athlete through re-
24 cruitment or transfer to an institution (as defined in

1 section 100 of the Protect College Sports Act of
2 2026); or

3 “(8) make a materially false, deceptive, or
4 fraudulent statement in the application for registra-
5 tion as an athlete agent.”; and

6 (B) in subsection (b)(3), by striking
7 “Warning to Student Athlete: If you agree oral-
8 ly or in writing to be represented by an agent
9 now or in the future you may lose your eligi-
10 bility to compete as a student athlete in your
11 sport.”;

12 (3) by inserting after section 5 (15 U.S.C.
13 7804) the following:

14 **“SEC. 5A. PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Any current or former student
16 athlete alleging a violation of paragraphs (4) through (8)
17 of section 3(a), section 9, or section 10 may bring a civil
18 action in an appropriate district court of the United States
19 or in an appropriate State court.

20 “(b) RELIEF.—In a civil action brought under sub-
21 section (a) in which the plaintiff prevails, the court may
22 award—

23 “(1) a declaratory judgment that a name,
24 image, or likeness agreement (as defined in section
25 100 of the Protect College Sports Act of 2026) or

1 an agency contract, as applicable, is null and void;
2 and

3 “(2) actual damages.

4 “(c) ATTORNEY’S FEES AND COSTS.—In a civil ac-
5 tion brought under subsection (a) in which the defendant
6 is not an institution (as defined in section 100 of the Pro-
7 tect College Sports Act of 2026), the court may, in its
8 discretion, award reasonable attorney’s fees and litigation
9 costs to the prevailing party.

10 “(d) INVALIDITY OF PRE-DISPUTE ARBITRATION
11 AGREEMENTS AND PRE-DISPUTE JOINT ACTION WAIV-
12 ERS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
14 provision of law, no pre-dispute arbitration agree-
15 ment or pre-dispute joint action waiver shall be valid
16 or enforceable against a student athlete with respect
17 to a dispute arising under this Act.

18 “(2) APPLICABILITY.—Any determination as to
19 whether or how paragraph (1) applies to any dispute
20 shall be made by a court, rather than an arbitrator,
21 without regard to whether the agreement or waiver
22 that is the subject of the dispute purports to dele-
23 gate such determination to an arbitrator.

24 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) PRE-DISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREE-
2 MENT.—The term ‘pre-dispute arbitration
3 agreement’ means any agreement to arbitrate a
4 dispute that has not arisen at the time of the
5 making of the agreement.

6 “(B) PRE-DISPUTE JOINT-ACTION WAIV-
7 ER.—The term ‘pre-dispute joint-action waiver’
8 means an agreement, whether or not part of a
9 pre-dispute arbitration agreement, that would
10 prohibit, or waive the right of, one of the par-
11 ties to the agreement to participate in a joint,
12 class, or collective action in a judicial, arbitral,
13 administrative, or other forum, concerning a
14 dispute that has not yet arisen at the time of
15 the making of the agreement.”; and

16 (4) by adding at the end the following:

17 **“SEC. 9. REGISTRATION OF ATHLETE AGENTS AND OTHER**
18 **REQUIREMENTS.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An athlete agent who seeks to
20 represent a student athlete in an endorsement contract
21 shall—

22 “(1) register with a State before representing a
23 student athlete for an endorsement contract; and

1 “(2) enter into an agency contract with the stu-
2 dent athlete before providing representation in an
3 endorsement contract.

4 “(b) REGISTRATION ESTABLISHED.—An individual is
5 deemed to be registered with a State for purposes of this
6 section if the individual is—

7 “(1) a registered professional sports agent with
8 a professional sports league or players association, in
9 good standing; or

10 “(2) registered and certified under the All State
11 Uniform Agent Acts in the State in which the agent
12 operates, in good standing.

13 “(c) CERTIFICATION TO INTERCOLLEGIATE ATH-
14 LETIC ASSOCIATIONS.—

15 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—An athlete agent that
16 represents a student athlete shall certify to each ap-
17 plicable intercollegiate athletic association that the
18 athlete agent is registered with a State.

19 “(2) PROHIBITION.—It is unlawful for an indi-
20 vidual to certify to an intercollegiate athletic associa-
21 tion that the individual is an athlete agent if the in-
22 dividual is not registered with a State.

23 “(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCY CONTRACTS.—To
24 be a valid contract, an agency contract shall—

1 “(1) state the name of each party to the con-
2 tract;

3 “(2) state the term of the contract;

4 “(3) state the registration information for the
5 athlete agent; and

6 “(4) state the fee or commission charged by the
7 athlete agent.

8 **“SEC. 10. ENDORSEMENT CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS.**

9 “(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR ENDORSEMENT CON-
10 TRACTS.—An endorsement contract made in interstate or
11 foreign commerce is, at the option of the student athlete,
12 void from the inception of such contract if such contract
13 does not satisfy the following requirements:

14 “(1) The contract is in writing.

15 “(2) The contract plainly states that the stu-
16 dent athlete has the right to obtain or retain an ath-
17 lete agent or legal representation with respect to the
18 contract.

19 “(3) The contract contains—

20 “(A) a description of services rendered;

21 “(B) the names of each party to the con-
22 tract;

23 “(C) the terms of the contract;

1 “(D) the amount of compensation to be
2 provided to the student athlete under the con-
3 tract;

4 “(E) a provision specifying the cir-
5 cumstance or event that would result in the ter-
6 mination of the contract due to nonperformance
7 of obligations by the student athlete or other
8 parties to the contract; and

9 “(F) a provision specifying that the valid-
10 ity and effectiveness of the contract, and the
11 provision of compensation to the student athlete
12 under the contract, is not conditioned upon any
13 express or implicit requirement that the student
14 athlete enroll or remain enrolled at an institu-
15 tion or reside in a particular location within the
16 United States, unless the party making the con-
17 tract with the student athlete is an institution,
18 conference, associated entity, or collective affili-
19 ated with the institution and the contract is en-
20 tered into after the student athlete has enrolled
21 at such institution.

22 “(4) The contract is not for a term that ex-
23 tends beyond the eligibility of the student athlete to
24 participate in intercollegiate sports, if such contract
25 is between a student athlete and an institution,

1 intercollegiate athletic association, conference, asso-
2 ciated entity, or collective.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents
4 for the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act is
5 amended—

6 (1) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
7 tion 5 the following:

“Sec. 5A. Private right of action.”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 9. Registration of athlete agents and other requirements.

“Sec. 10. Endorsement contract requirements.”.

9 **SEC. 103. AGENT REGISTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTER-**
10 **COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS.**

11 (a) REQUIREMENTS OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATH-
12 LETIC ASSOCIATIONS.—An intercollegiate athletic associa-
13 tion shall maintain a publicly available website that in-
14 cludes a searchable database of athlete agents that—

15 (1) are registered with a State and certified
16 pursuant to section 9 of the Sports Agent Responsi-
17 bility and Trust Act, as added by section 102; and

18 (2) have certified compliance with all rules and
19 bylaws of such intercollegiate athletic association, in-
20 cluding any recruitment and tampering rules adopt-
21 ed under section 117.

22 (b) DECERTIFICATION PERMITTED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic
2 association may decertify or fine an athlete agent for
3 any violations of section 9 of the Sports Agent Re-
4 sponsibility and Trust Act, as added by section 102,
5 or any violation of section 117 on recruitment and
6 tampering.

7 (2) EFFECT OF DECERTIFICATION.—An athlete
8 agent that is decertified pursuant to paragraph (1)
9 may not represent or contact a student athlete or
10 prospective student athlete of an institution that is
11 a member of such intercollegiate athletic association.

12 **SEC. 104. DISCLOSURES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NAME,**
13 **IMAGE, AND LIKENESS AGREEMENT DATA-**
14 **BASE.**

15 (a) DISCLOSURES BY INSTITUTIONS.—

16 (1) DISCLOSURE OF DATA ON NAME, IMAGE,
17 AND LIKENESS AGREEMENTS.—Not later than July
18 1 of the first year beginning after the date of the
19 enactment of this Act, and each July 1 thereafter,
20 each institution shall disclose to the intercollegiate
21 athletic association of which the institution is a
22 member, in an anonymized manner, the following
23 data:

24 (A) With respect to each name, image, and
25 likeness agreement disclosed to the institution

1 by a student athlete as required by section
2 101(b)—

3 (i) a description of services rendered;

4 and

5 (ii) the amount of compensation to be
6 provided to the student athlete or group of
7 athletes under the agreement.

8 (B) With respect to each name, image, and
9 likeness agreement entered into between the in-
10 stitution and a student athlete, disaggregated
11 by intercollegiate sports program—

12 (i) the number of agreements the in-
13 stitution entered into;

14 (ii) the average value of the agree-
15 ments; and

16 (iii) the total value of the agreements.

17 (2) REPORT ON REVENUE AND STUDENT OUT-
18 COMES.—Not later than 60 days after the date on
19 which an academic year ends, each institution with
20 1 or more intercollegiate sports programs shall sub-
21 mit to the governing athletic association for such in-
22 stitution a report that includes, for the academic
23 year, the following:

24 (A) The amount of revenues and expendi-
25 tures of each such sports program, including

1 the amount of associated entity and third-party
2 donations, Federal funds, and State funds, in-
3 cluding the total amount of remuneration for
4 personnel of each intercollegiate sports pro-
5 gram, individually by program and in the ag-
6 gregate.

7 (B) The average number of hours student
8 athletes spent on intercollegiate athletic events
9 and intercollegiate athletic competition,
10 disaggregated by sports program.

11 (C) The academic outcomes and majors for
12 student athletes, disaggregated by sports pro-
13 gram.

14 (3) TREATMENT OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PRO-
15 GRAMS.—An institution shall treat men's and wom-
16 en's sports programs as distinct sports programs for
17 the purposes of disclosure and reporting obligations
18 under this subsection.

19 (4) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFI-
20 ABLE INFORMATION.—In making a disclosure under
21 paragraph (1), an institution shall ensure that no
22 personally identifiable information of a student ath-
23 lete is transmitted to an intercollegiate athletic asso-
24 ciation.

1 (b) DISCLOSURES BY ASSOCIATIONS AND DATA-
2 BASE.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September of
4 the first year beginning after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act, each intercollegiate athletic asso-
6 ciation shall establish and maintain a publicly acces-
7 sible, searchable database for student athletes and
8 their agents to estimate the fair market value for
9 name, image, and likeness agreements.

10 (2) CONTENT OF DATABASE.—An intercolle-
11 giate athletic association shall include the data re-
12 ported by institutions pursuant to subsection (a)(1)
13 in the database described in paragraph (1).

14 (3) UPDATE OF DATABASE.—An intercollegiate
15 athletic association shall update the database de-
16 scribed in paragraph (1) each September 1.

17 (4) PRIVACY.—An intercollegiate athletic asso-
18 ciation shall take reasonable technical measures to
19 ensure that information available in the database de-
20 scribed in paragraph (1) may not be used to identify
21 a student athlete.

22 (5) LIMITATION.—This section applies only to
23 institutions that compete in Division 1 as defined by
24 bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Asso-
25 ciation, or a successor bylaw.

1 **SEC. 105. ACADEMIC PROTECTIONS.**

2 (a) PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO COURSEWORK AND
3 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—An employee or volunteer of
5 an athletic department of an institution may not—

6 (A) exert undue pressure over or prevent a
7 student athlete from selecting a course or an
8 academic major of the student athlete's choice;

9 (B) retaliate against a student athlete
10 based on the student athlete's selection of any
11 course or academic major; or

12 (C) prevent a student athlete who seeks to
13 secure employment or internships, participate in
14 student groups or events, or serve as a volun-
15 teer from doing so, unless such activity inter-
16 feres with mandatory class time or mandatory
17 events related to intercollegiate athletic com-
18 petition or membership on a varsity sports
19 team.

20 (2) PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETIC RELATED AC-
21 TIVITIES.—In order to ensure each student athlete
22 makes satisfactory progress toward the completion
23 of a degree, each intercollegiate athletic association
24 and any institution that is a member of such asso-
25 ciation may limit a student athlete to only partici-
26 pate in countable athletic-related activities as part of

1 the educational, developmental, or extracurricular
2 programs of the institution.

3 (3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1)
4 may not be construed as preventing an institution,
5 an athletic department of an institution, or a rep-
6 resentative thereof from—

7 (A) informing a student athlete of aca-
8 demic eligibility requirements and mandatory
9 and expected team activities; or

10 (B) providing other legitimate academic
11 counseling and support services, in collaboration
12 with the institution, to help the student athlete
13 pursue the academic interests of and improve
14 academic outcomes for the student athlete.

15 (b) FINANCIAL LITERACY AND LIFE SKILLS.—An in-
16 stitution that offers financial literacy and life skills pro-
17 gramming directed to student athletes may not include
18 any marketing, advertising, referral, or solicitation offers
19 in such programming.

20 (c) SCHOLARSHIP PROTECTIONS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
22 graph (2), an institution that awards a grant-in-aid
23 to a student athlete may not revoke, reduce, or con-
24 dition the grant-in-aid of the student athlete—

1 (A) based on the athletic ability or per-
2 formance of the student athlete or the contribu-
3 tion of the student athlete to the success of a
4 varsity sports team;

5 (B) as a result of an injury or illness based
6 on a physical or mental medical condition of the
7 student athlete; or

8 (C) roster management decisions.

9 (2) EXCEPTION.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—An institution may re-
11 voke, reduce, or condition the grant-in-aid of a
12 student athlete or former student athlete who—

13 (i) transfers to another institution; or

14 (ii) does not remain in good standing

15 in accordance with—

16 (I) the standards or code of con-
17 duct of the institution applicable to all
18 students;

19 (II) the established athletics pro-
20 gram policies for participating in
21 mandatory team athletic activities for
22 a varsity sports team; or

23 (III) the academic standards for
24 athletic eligibility.

1 (B) NOTICE.—An institution shall provide
2 a student athlete with timely written notice
3 with respect to any possible revocation or reduc-
4 tion of, or condition on, the grant-in-aid or ath-
5 letic eligibility of the student athlete.

6 (C) REINSTATEMENT.—In the case of a
7 revocation or reduction of, or condition on, the
8 grant-in-aid of a student athlete under this
9 paragraph, an institution may reinstate or re-
10 move any condition placed on such grant-in-aid
11 if the student athlete subsequently cures or sat-
12 isfies the reasons provided by the notice in sub-
13 paragraph (B).

14 (D) FORMER STUDENT ATHLETES.—

15 (i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a
16 former student athlete described in clause
17 (ii), an institution shall provide the former
18 student athlete—

19 (I) the opportunity to resume
20 study at the institution for the pur-
21 pose of completing the requirements
22 necessary to earn a degree; and

23 (II) the amount of grant-in-aid
24 the former student athlete received

1 while previously enrolled at the insti-
2 tution and participating—

3 (aa) in intercollegiate ath-
4 letic competition; or

5 (bb) as a member of a var-
6 sity sports team.

7 (ii) FORMER STUDENT ATHLETE DE-
8 SCRIBED.—A former student athlete de-
9 scribed in this subparagraph is a former
10 student athlete of an institution who—

11 (I) was enrolled at the institution
12 during their last year of eligibility to
13 participate in intercollegiate athletic
14 competition during the preceding 10-
15 year period;

16 (II) received grant-in-aid while
17 enrolled at the institution;

18 (III) was not subject to the rev-
19 ocation of grant-in-aid under subpara-
20 graph (A)(ii)(I); and

21 (IV) has not completed the
22 course of study for an undergraduate
23 degree.

24 (iii) APPLICATION.—This subpara-
25 graph applies only to institutions that com-

1 pete in Division I, as defined by bylaw
2 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic As-
3 sociation, or successor bylaw.

4 (E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
5 this paragraph may be construed to preclude—

6 (i) an institution from providing addi-
7 tional grant-in-aid protections for student
8 athletes or former student athletes; or

9 (ii) an intercollegiate athletic associa-
10 tion, conference, institution, student ath-
11 lete, or former student athlete from re-
12 questing or advocating for additional
13 grant-in-aid protections.

14 (3) LIMITATION.—Subsection (c)(2)(D) shall
15 apply only to institutions that compete in Division I
16 as defined by bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate
17 Athletic Association, or a successor bylaw.

18 **SEC. 106. MEDICAL COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each Division I institution, as de-
20 fined by bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic As-
21 sociation, or a successor bylaw, or an intercollegiate ath-
22 letic association or conference comprised of Division I
23 member institutions shall provide or cause to be pro-
24 vided—

1 (1) during the participation of a student athlete
2 in an intercollegiate sport—

3 (A) all out-of-pocket medical expenses,
4 such as copayments or deductibles, for the
5 health care coverage of a student athlete for
6 any injury or disease incurred through partici-
7 pation in an intercollegiate sport;

8 (B) the expense for obtaining a medical
9 second opinion independent of the institution
10 for any injury or disease the student athlete in-
11 curred through participation in an intercolle-
12 giate sport;

13 (C) catastrophic injury medical insurance
14 for any injury or disease incurred through par-
15 ticipation in an intercollegiate sport that ex-
16 ceeds \$90,000 in medical costs; and

17 (D) an end-of-college physical examination
18 for a student athlete for the purpose of docu-
19 menting and diagnosing any injury or condition
20 related to the student athlete's participation in
21 an intercollegiate sport; and

22 (2) for the 5-year period beginning on the date
23 after the last intercollegiate competition for the stu-
24 dent athlete, the cost of all out-of-pocket medical ex-
25 penses of the student athlete for health care cov-

1 erage for any injury or disease incurred through
2 participation in an intercollegiate sport.

3 (b) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
4 POST-ELIGIBILITY INSURANCE AND CATASTROPHIC IN-
5 JURY FUND OR PROGRAM.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic
7 association comprised of member institutions that
8 compete in Division I, Division II, or Division III,
9 as defined by bylaw 20 of the National Collegiate
10 Athletic Association, or a successor bylaw, on behalf
11 of its member institutions must establish a fund or
12 program to help cover the cost of—

13 (A) in the case of a Division I institution
14 that generates less than \$20,000,000 in total
15 annual athletics revenue during the preceding
16 academic year, compliance with subsection
17 (a)(2) (or, in the case of a Division II or Divi-
18 sion III institution, voluntary compliance with
19 subsection (a)(2)), in the event of demonstrated
20 financial hardship; and

21 (B) post-eligibility medical expenses for a
22 member institution's student athletes diagnosed
23 with significant long-term conditions related to
24 their participation in an intercollegiate sport,

1 including chronic traumatic encephalopathy and
2 any other cognitive impairment.

3 (2) AMOUNT OF FUND.—The intercollegiate
4 athletic association described in this subsection shall
5 ensure that the fund or program established under
6 this subsection is funded at an amount that totals
7 at least \$60,000,000 on the first day of each aca-
8 demic year.

9 (3) USE OF COLLECTIVE MEDIA RIGHTS.—In
10 ensuring that the fund or program established under
11 paragraph (2) is adequately funded, an intercolle-
12 giate athletic association may use the collective
13 media rights revenue from a covered entity, in ac-
14 cordance with section 5(d)(3) of the Sports Broad-
15 casting Act of 1961, as added by section 203.

16 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
17 tion may be construed to preclude an intercollegiate ath-
18 letic association from—

19 (1) providing or causing to be provided to stu-
20 dent athletes medical coverage in addition to the
21 medical coverage required by subsection (a); or

22 (2) exceeding \$60,000,000 for the fund or pro-
23 gram established in subsection (b) for any academic
24 year.

1 **SEC. 107. HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND SAFETY STANDARDS.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—Not later
3 than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
4 each institution, conference, and intercollegiate athletic
5 association shall adhere to standards to protect student
6 athletes from sports-related serious injury, conditions, and
7 death, including—

8 (1) brain injury, by adhering to the concussion
9 management practices, protocols, and legislation of
10 the National Collegiate Athletic Association effective
11 January 15, 2024, and as amended to strengthen
12 protections for student athletes;

13 (2) heat-related illness, by adhering to the
14 American College of Sports Medicine Expert Con-
15 sensus Statement on Exertional Heat Illness: Rec-
16 ognition, Management, and Return to Activity (April
17 2023), and as amended to strengthen protections for
18 student athletes;

19 (3) rhabdomyolysis, in accordance with the
20 guidelines of the National Collegiate Athletic Asso-
21 ciation for exertional rhabdomyolysis published in
22 2025, and as amended to strengthen protections for
23 student athletes; and

24 (4) for any student athlete who is identified
25 with—

1 (A) sickle cell trait, by following the guide-
2 lines published by the National Collegiate Ath-
3 letic Association in 2025, and as amended to
4 strengthen protections for student athletes; and

5 (B) asthma, by following the guidelines of
6 the National Athletic Trainers' Association Po-
7 sition Statement: Management of Asthma in
8 Athletes (September 2005), and as amended to
9 strengthen protections for student athletes.

10 (b) MEASURES TO PREVENT, ASSESS, AND REME-
11 DIATE ABUSE OR MISCONDUCT.—Each institution, con-
12 ference, and intercollegiate athletic association shall take
13 reasonable actions to prevent, assess, and remediate—

14 (1) abuse or hazing of any student athlete, in-
15 cluding physical and sexual abuse; and

16 (2) sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sex-
17 ual harassment.

18 (c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON CONTACT FOR
19 STUDENT ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN.—

20 (1) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-
21 TION.—An intercollegiate athletic association shall
22 provide to student athletes information on how to
23 contact the Office of the Student Athlete Ombuds-
24 man, as established in section 108, on the internet
25 website of the association.

1 (2) INSTITUTION.—At the beginning of each
2 academic year, an institution shall provide to stu-
3 dent athletes information on how to locate the
4 website specified under paragraph (1) or a link to
5 the website and information on how to contact the
6 Office of the Student Athlete Ombudsman, as estab-
7 lished in section 108.

8 (d) ATHLETIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICERS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each institution shall des-
10 ignate an employee, who is independent of the ath-
11 letic department, as the athletic health and safety
12 officer for the institution.

13 (2) REPORTING.—The athletic health and safe-
14 ty officer designated under paragraph (1) shall re-
15 port to an employee of the institution who is inde-
16 pendent of the athletic department.

17 (3) OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES.—An employee
18 who is designated by an institution under paragraph
19 (1) as an athletic health and safety officer shall be
20 responsible for, at a minimum—

21 (A) overseeing implementation of the appli-
22 cable requirements the institution is subject to
23 under this section, including any applicable
24 training, oversight practices, policies, and pro-
25 cedures; and

1 (B) consulting with student athletes and
2 athletic department personnel and reporting
3 any suspected violations of this section to the
4 employee specified under paragraph (2).

5 (e) INDEPENDENCE OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Medical personnel, including
7 athletic trainers, physical therapists, and physicians,
8 shall have the autonomous, unchallengeable author-
9 ity to determine medical management and return to
10 play decisions for student athletes under their care
11 at an institution.

12 (2) LIMITATION ON NONMEDICAL PER-
13 SONNEL.—No coach or other nonmedical personnel
14 of an institution may attempt to influence or dis-
15 regard the decisions of medical personnel with re-
16 spect to the medical management and return to play
17 decisions for student athletes under their care at the
18 institution.

19 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
20 tion may be construed to preclude—

21 (1) an intercollegiate athletic association from
22 establishing additional health, wellness, and safety
23 standards to protect student athletes; or

24 (2) an intercollegiate athletic association, con-
25 ference, institution, or student athletes from request-

1 ing or advocating for additional health, wellness, and
2 safety standards to protect student athletes.

3 **SEC. 108. OFFICE OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic associa-
5 tion shall establish an office to support student athletes,
6 known as the “Office of the Student Athlete Ombudsman”
7 (in this section referred to as the “Office”).

8 (b) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

9 (1) provide independent advice to student ath-
10 letes at no cost about the applicable requirements of
11 this title and the amendments made by this title, in-
12 cluding with respect to their rights and responsibil-
13 ities and the resources available;

14 (2) assist in the resolution of student athlete
15 concerns regarding the intercollegiate athletic asso-
16 ciation, conferences, or institutions;

17 (3) provide independent advice to student ath-
18 letes with respect to the role, responsibility, author-
19 ity, and jurisdiction of the intercollegiate athletic as-
20 sociation, conferences, or institutions;

21 (4) provide student athletes with current con-
22 tact information for external third-party resources
23 for student athletes; and

1 (5) provide independent advice to student ath-
2 letes with respect to the relative value of engaging
3 legal counsel.

4 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—An interstate intercollegiate
5 athletic association shall hire and provide salary, benefits,
6 and administrative expenses for an Ombudsman and sup-
7 port staff for the Office.

8 (d) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall maintain as
10 confidential any information communicated or pro-
11 vided to the Office in confidence in any matter in-
12 volving the exercise of the official duties of the Of-
13 fice.

14 (2) EXCEPTION.—The Office may, with the per-
15 mission of the parties involved, disclose information
16 described in paragraph (1) as necessary to resolve or
17 mediate a dispute.

18 (3) APPLICATION.—The confidentiality require-
19 ments under this subsection shall not apply to infor-
20 mation—

21 (A) as necessary to comply with applicable
22 reporting requirements mandated by Federal
23 law;

24 (B) relating to a felony personally wit-
25 nessed by a member of the Office;

1 (C) if necessary to protect an individual at
2 imminent risk of serious harm; or

3 (D) with the permission of the parties in-
4 volved, as necessary to resolve or mediate a dis-
5 pute.

6 (4) JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRO-
7 CEEDINGS.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Ombudsman and
9 any staff of the Office shall not be compelled to
10 testify or produce evidence in any judicial or
11 administrative proceeding with respect to any
12 matter involving the exercise of the duties of
13 the Office.

14 (B) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Any memo-
15 randum, work product, notes, or case file of the
16 Office—

17 (i) shall be confidential; and

18 (ii) shall not be—

19 (I) subject to discovery, sub-
20 poena, or any other means of legal
21 compulsion; or

22 (II) admissible as evidence in a
23 judicial or administrative proceeding.

24 (5) PROHIBITION ON RETALIATION.—No em-
25 ployee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of an

1 intercollegiate athletic association, a conference, or
2 an institution shall take or threaten to take any ac-
3 tion against a student athlete as a reprisal for dis-
4 closing information to or seeking assistance from the
5 Office.

6 (e) INDEPENDENCE IN CARRYING OUT DUTIES.—
7 The board of directors or other governing board or com-
8 mittee of an intercollegiate athletic association, a con-
9 ference, or an institution shall not prevent or prohibit the
10 Office from carrying out any duty or responsibility under
11 this section.

12 **SEC. 109. COMPARABLE STANDARDS FOR ACCESS TO FA-**
13 **CILITIES, SERVICES, AND EVENTS.**

14 Intercollegiate athletic associations and conferences
15 shall maintain comparable standards for medical care,
16 lodging, meals, rest, transportation, and, if applicable,
17 athletic facilities for championship events or tournaments,
18 across similarly situated men's and women's athletic pro-
19 grams.

20 **SEC. 110. RULES GOVERNING CERTAIN MID-SEASON**
21 **COACHING TRANSITIONS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—An individual who serves, or has
23 served at any point during a competitive season, as foot-
24 ball athletic personnel for a varsity sports team for inter-
25 collegiate football at an institution shall not, during that

1 same competitive season, perform for another institution
2 any duties or responsibilities customarily associated with
3 a head coach of a varsity sports team for intercollegiate
4 football, including, at a minimum—

5 (1) recruiting or contacting prospective or cur-
6 rent student athletes;

7 (2) directing, participating in, or materially in-
8 fluencing recruiting strategy or evaluations;

9 (3) directing, participating in, or materially in-
10 fluencing roster management decisions, including de-
11 cisions relating to transfers;

12 (4) facilitating, coordinating, negotiating, or
13 otherwise materially influencing name, image, and
14 likeness activities involving student athletes;

15 (5) directing, supervising, or materially influ-
16 encing coaching staff or team operations;

17 (6) participating in practice planning, game
18 preparation, strategic decision-making, or on-field
19 activities;

20 (7) publicly representing the institution in an
21 intercollegiate football-related capacity in a manner
22 that reflects or implies authority over the intercolle-
23 giate football program; and

1 (8) undertaking any other activity customarily
2 associated with a head coach of a varsity sports
3 team for intercollegiate football.

4 (b) APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply with-
5 out regard to title, formal designation, compensation
6 structure, employment status, or timing of any public an-
7 nouncement, and the applicable intercollegiate athletic as-
8 sociation may prohibit any arrangement that, in substance
9 or effect, provides an individual described in subsection
10 (a) with authority or responsibilities customarily exercised
11 by a head coach.

12 (c) DETERMINATION OF INELIGIBILITY.—An indi-
13 vidual described in subsection (a) who accepts employ-
14 ment, appointment, or designation as head coach of a var-
15 sity sports team for intercollegiate football at another in-
16 stitution during the same competitive season is ineligible
17 to participate in intercollegiate athletic competition for
18 intercollegiate football as head coach for the hiring institu-
19 tion through the conclusion of the competitive season, in-
20 cluding any postseason competition, of the prior institu-
21 tion or the hiring institution, whichever occurs later.

22 (d) PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.—In the
23 event an individual who accepts employment, appointment,
24 or designation as head coach of a varsity sports team for
25 intercollegiate football at another institution violates this

1 section, that individual shall be ineligible to assume the
2 duties as head coach of the varsity sports team for inter-
3 collegiate football at the hiring institution for the subse-
4 quent competitive season after the season in which the vio-
5 lation occurred and be subject to additional penalties suffi-
6 cient to ensure compliance with this section.

7 (e) APPLICATION.—This section applies only to insti-
8 tutions that compete in the Football Bowl Subdivision, as
9 defined by bylaw 20.9.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic
10 Association, or a successor bylaw.

11 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) APPLICABLE INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC
13 ASSOCIATION.—The term “applicable intercollegiate
14 athletic association” means only an intercollegiate
15 athletic association that has at least one member in-
16 stitution that is a member of the Football Bowl Sub-
17 division, as defined by bylaw 20.9.9 of the National
18 Collegiate Athletic Association, or a successor bylaw.

19 (2) COMPETITIVE SEASON.—The term “com-
20 petitive season” means the period beginning with the
21 first regularly scheduled intercollegiate athletic com-
22 petition for intercollegiate football for an institution
23 during a season and ending with the conclusion of
24 the final intercollegiate athletic competition for

1 intercollegiate football for the institution during that
2 season.

3 (3) FOOTBALL ATHLETIC PERSONNEL.—The
4 term “football athletic personnel” means any indi-
5 vidual employed by, contracted with, or otherwise
6 engaged by an institution who provides coaching, in-
7 struction, recruiting, roster management, or training
8 as the head coach or a coordinator, including an of-
9 fensive, defensive, or special teams coordinator, of
10 student athletes who are members of or participate
11 with the varsity sports team for intercollegiate foot-
12 ball of the institution.

13 (4) INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.—The term
14 “intercollegiate football”—

15 (A) means football played between institu-
16 tions for which eligibility requirements for par-
17 ticipation by a student athlete are established
18 by an intercollegiate athletic association; and

19 (B) does not include a recreational, intra-
20 mural, or club sport.

21 **SEC. 111. STUDENT ATHLETE REPRESENTATION ON INTER-**
22 **COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION GOV-**
23 **ERNING BOARDS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 1/3 of the member-
25 ship and voting power of any board of directors or other

1 governing board, or committees with authority to establish
2 and enforce rules or bylaws shall be comprised of current
3 student athletes or former student athletes who have grad-
4 uated from their institution during the preceding 10-year
5 period.

6 (b) LIMITATION.—

7 (1) A former student athlete who is a current
8 or former employee of an intercollegiate athletic as-
9 sociation, a conference, or a member institution may
10 not count towards the student athlete membership
11 requirement pursuant to subsection (a); and

12 (2) no member of any such board or committee
13 shall vote on any matter that presents a conflict of
14 interest for such member.

15 **SEC. 112. TRANSFER PROTECTIONS.**

16 An institution, a conference, an intercollegiate ath-
17 letic association, or any representative of such entity shall
18 permit a student athlete to transfer from one institution
19 to another institution—

20 (1) once without losing or delaying eligibility to
21 participate in intercollegiate sports;

22 (2) except as provided in paragraph (3), a sec-
23 ond time with a loss of eligibility to participate in
24 intercollegiate sports during the first academic year
25 following the transfer; and

1 (3) additionally, without losing or delaying eligi-
2 bility to participate in intercollegiate sports, upon—

3 (A) discontinuation of a sport in which the
4 student athlete competes;

5 (B) the departure of the head coach of the
6 student athlete's varsity sports team;

7 (C) sexual assault or harassment of the
8 student athlete by an individual associated with
9 the student athlete's varsity sports team; or

10 (D) the student athlete pursuing a grad-
11 uate degree.

12 **SEC. 113. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERCOLLE-**
13 **GIATE SPORTS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligible to partici-
15 pate on a varsity sports team or in intercollegiate athletic
16 competition if the individual—

17 (1) is a student athlete;

18 (2) meets uniform academic standards estab-
19 lished by the relevant intercollegiate athletic associa-
20 tion, conference, or institution;

21 (3) is not a professional athlete; and

22 (4) complies with established rules that restrict
23 eligibility for violations of State or Federal law.

24 (b) YEARS OF ELIGIBILITY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
2 the student athlete is eligible to compete in inter-
3 collegiate athletic competition for a maximum of 5
4 calendar years beginning at the start of the regular
5 academic year immediately following, whichever oc-
6 curs first—

7 (A) the student athlete’s 19th birthday;

8 (B) the student athlete’s actual high school
9 graduation date;

10 (C) the student athlete’s expected high
11 school graduation date based on the first year
12 of high school enrollment; or

13 (D) the date a student athlete enrolls full
14 time at an institution.

15 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) does not
16 apply during a period of absence for any of the fol-
17 lowing:

18 (A) Reasons of pregnancy.

19 (B) Religious mission.

20 (C) Active-duty military service.

21 (D) Other periods of absence adopted by
22 rule or bylaw by an intercollegiate athletic asso-
23 ciation that apply uniformly to all student ath-
24 letes.

25 (c) RESTRICTIONS ON ELIGIBILITY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic
2 association or a conference may restrict a student
3 athlete’s eligibility to participate in intercollegiate
4 sports if the student athlete—

5 (A) used an illegal or performance enhance-
6 ing drug; or

7 (B) participated in sports wagering activi-
8 ties.

9 (2) CODE OF CONDUCT.—An institution may
10 restrict a student athlete’s eligibility to participate in
11 intercollegiate sports if the student athlete violated
12 the institution’s code of conduct that applies to all
13 students.

14 (d) CLARIFICATION ON PRIZE MONEY.—For pur-
15 poses of subsection (a)(3), a student athlete who competes
16 in a sport other than football or basketball shall not be
17 considered a professional athlete based solely on the
18 amount of prize money the student athlete received based
19 on place finish or performance in an athletic event before
20 or after enrollment in an institution, so long as—

21 (1) the prize money was provided only by the
22 sponsor of the athletics event; and

23 (2) the sponsor of the athletics event is not an
24 institution, employee of an institution, volunteer of
25 an institution, collective, or an associated entity.

1 (e) TRANSFER FROM 2-YEAR INSTITUTION.—No
2 intercollegiate athletic association or conference shall re-
3 quire a student athlete who transfers from a 2-year insti-
4 tution to a 4-year institution to meet additional or more
5 stringent academic standards than the academic stand-
6 ards required for student athletes who transfer from a 4-
7 year institution.

8 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
9 tion shall be construed to restrict the ability of an institu-
10 tion to—

11 (1) require student athletes to meet or maintain
12 academic standards that are in addition to, or more
13 stringent than, the standards described in subsection
14 (a) if such standards are required of all students en-
15 rolled at the institution;

16 (2) discipline or sanction a student athlete for
17 violating a rule, regulation, or code of conduct that
18 applies to all students enrolled at the institution; or

19 (3) discipline or sanction a student athlete for
20 violating a rule, regulation, or a code of conduct that
21 applies to all student athletes participating in inter-
22 collegiate athletic competition at that institution.

23 **SEC. 114. PROHIBITED COMPENSATION AND AGREEMENTS.**

24 (a) CERTAIN AGREEMENTS AND COMPENSATION
25 PROHIBITED.—An institution, an employee of an institu-

1 tion, a volunteer of an institution, a conference, an em-
2 ployee of a conference, or an associated entity shall not—

3 (1) except as provided in subsection (b), ar-
4 range, provide, offer, or permit, directly or indi-
5 rectly, compensation in an amount that would cir-
6 cumvent or result in the institution exceeding the
7 revenue share cap to—

8 (A) a student athlete, a group of student
9 athletes, or their family members; or

10 (B) a prospective student athlete, a group
11 of prospective student athletes, or their family
12 members; or

13 (2) enter into a name, image, and likeness
14 agreement with a student athlete or prospective stu-
15 dent athlete that is not—

16 (A) for a valid business purpose; and

17 (B) commensurate with compensation paid
18 to individuals with a similar profile, reputation,
19 or notability who are not student athletes or
20 prospective student athletes.

21 (b) **PERSONAL ATHLETIC AND EDUCATION BENE-**
22 **FITS PERMITTED.**—An intercollegiate athletic association,
23 a conference, an institution, or any representative thereof
24 shall not, pursuant to the Injunctive Relief Settlement
25 Agreement approved by the court in “In Re College Ath-

1 lete NIL Legislation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June
2 6, 2025), restrict the ability of a student athlete enrolled
3 at an institution to receive compensation from an inter-
4 collegiate athletic association, an institution, a conference,
5 or an associated entity, for personal benefits related to
6 education or intercollegiate athletics, provided they are—

7 (1) reasonable costs of transportation and tem-
8 porary lodging for family members of a student ath-
9 lete while the student athlete is experiencing a docu-
10 mented physical or mental health concern or partici-
11 pating in an intercollegiate athletic competition;

12 (2) reasonable costs for meals, shelter, medical
13 coverage, and medical expenses not provided or cov-
14 ered by the institution; and

15 (3) reasonable education-related financial bene-
16 fits, such as institution fees, books, or other inci-
17 dental educational expenses that are not otherwise
18 provided by the institution.

19 (c) VALID BUSINESS PURPOSE.—A name, image, and
20 likeness agreement with a student athlete shall be for a
21 valid business purpose.

22 (d) INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this section, the
23 term “institution” means—

1 (1) an institution of higher education, as that
2 term is defined in section 101 of the Higher Edu-
3 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001); and

4 (2) an institution that is a party to, through
5 membership in a conference or otherwise, “In Re
6 College Athlete NIL Legislation”, No. 20–cv–03919
7 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025), or has opted in to the In-
8 junctive Relief Settlement in that case.

9 **SEC. 115. EXTENSION OF THE REVENUE SHARE CAP.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon expiration or termination of
11 the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agreement approved by
12 the court in “In Re College Athlete NIL Legislation”, No.
13 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025), the revenue share
14 cap shall continue to apply with respect to section 114(a),
15 including any adjustments specified in subsection (b).

16 (b) ADJUSTMENT OF REVENUE SHARE CAP.—Upon
17 expiration of the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agreement
18 approved by the court in “In Re College Athlete NIL Leg-
19 islation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025), the
20 annual revenue share cap shall be adjusted annually for
21 inflation by the percent increase, if any, in the Consumer
22 Price Index for All-Urban Consumers published by the
23 Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor
24 for the most recent 12-month period for which applicable
25 data is available.

1 **SEC. 116. COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF COLLEGE ATH-**
2 **LETICS.**

3 (a) COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF COLLEGE ATH-
4 LETICS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within
6 the legislative branch a commission, to be known as
7 the “Congressional Commission on the Future of
8 College Athletics” (referred to in this section as the
9 “Commission”), for the purpose of providing rec-
10 ommendations on the future of college athletics.

11 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the commission
12 is to provide recommendations for the future of col-
13 lege athletics.

14 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

15 (1) COMPOSITION.—Subject to paragraph (2),
16 the Commission shall be composed of 20 members,
17 of whom—

18 (A) 4 members shall be appointed by the
19 chair of the Committee on Commerce, Science,
20 and Transportation, of which at least 1 member
21 shall be a student athlete or former student
22 athlete;

23 (B) 4 members shall be appointed by the
24 ranking member of the Committee on Com-
25 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-

1 ate, of which at least 1 member shall be a stu-
2 dent athlete or former student athlete;

3 (C) 4 members shall be appointed by the
4 chair of the Committee on Energy and Com-
5 merce of the House of Representatives, of which
6 at least 1 member shall be a student athlete or
7 former student athlete;

8 (D) 4 members shall be appointed by the
9 ranking member of the Committee on Energy
10 and Commerce of the House of Representatives,
11 of which at least 1 member shall be a student
12 athlete or former student athlete;

13 (E) 1 current or former student athlete ap-
14 pointed by the majority leader of the Senate, in
15 consultation with the chair of the Committee on
16 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
17 Senate;

18 (F) 1 current or former student athlete ap-
19 pointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in
20 consultation with the ranking member of the
21 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
22 portation of the Senate;

23 (G) 1 current or former student athlete ap-
24 pointed by Speaker of the House of Representa-
25 tives, in consultation with the chair of the Com-

1 committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
2 of Representatives; and

3 (H) 1 current or former student athlete
4 appointed by the minority leader of the House
5 of Representatives, in consultation with the
6 ranking member of the Committee on Energy
7 and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

8 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Members of the Commis-
9 sion shall be individuals who are nationally recog-
10 nized for expertise, knowledge, or experience in mat-
11 ters related to college athletics, university adminis-
12 tration, sports law, labor law, athlete welfare, sports
13 economics, health care, or sports medicine.

14 (3) CO-CHAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND
15 STAFF.—

16 (A) CO-CHAIRS.—The Commission shall
17 have 2 co-chairs, of whom—

18 (i) 1 co-chair shall be a member se-
19 lected by the majority party; and

20 (ii) 1 co-chair shall be a member se-
21 lected by the minority party.

22 (B) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—
23 The co-chairs of the Commission shall appoint
24 an executive director of the Commission, and
25 such staff as appropriate, with compensation.

1 (c) AUTHORITY.—The Commission may, for the pur-
2 pose of carrying out the duties of the Commission—

3 (1) hold such hearings and sit and act at such
4 times and places, take such testimony, receive such
5 evidence, and administer such oaths; and

6 (2) require, by subpoena issued upon a majority
7 vote of the Commission, the attendance and testi-
8 mony of such witnesses and the production of such
9 books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers,
10 and documents as the Commission considers relevant
11 to the purpose of the Commission.

12 (d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Commission are as
13 follows:

14 (1) To study and develop recommendations re-
15 garding—

16 (A) an alternative structure for providing
17 compensation for student athletes, including
18 consideration of the positive and negative impli-
19 cations associated with a collective bargaining
20 structure and employment status for student
21 athletes;

22 (B) protecting and preserving athletic op-
23 portunities for student athletes, particularly in
24 non-revenue generating, women's, and Olympic
25 sports intercollegiate athletic programs;

1 (C) whether any intercollegiate sport
2 should be subject to spending or cost limita-
3 tions;

4 (D) whether to eliminate, extend, or
5 change the Pool Benefits Limit set forth in the
6 Injunctive Relief Settlement Agreement as ap-
7 proved or amended by the court in “In Re Col-
8 lege Athlete NIL Legislation”, No. 20-cv-
9 03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025);

10 (E) compliance with endorsement contract
11 reporting requirements established by an ath-
12 letic association or a conference;

13 (F) adequacy of health and safety stand-
14 ards established pursuant to this title and com-
15 pliance with those standards by institutions;

16 (G) the adequacy of the athlete agent pro-
17 visions of this title;

18 (H) the extent to which student athletes
19 experience abuse or mistreatment and measures
20 that could protect student athletes from such
21 abuse or mistreatment;

22 (I) the benefits of the intercollegiate ath-
23 letic system, including consideration of how the
24 balance of education and athletics impacts the
25 life skills, educational opportunities, leadership

1 skills, character development, and personal
2 growth of the student athlete; and

3 (J) any other recommendations regarding
4 intercollegiate athletics.

5 (2) To draft a joint resolution of approval
6 under subsection (i) that provides for implementa-
7 tion of the Commission's recommendation on wheth-
8 er to eliminate, raise, or lower the Pool Benefits
9 Limit in section 114(a).

10 (3) Not later than 5 years after the date of the
11 enactment of this Act, to submit a report on the ac-
12 tivities of the Commission, including recommenda-
13 tions for such legislative action as the Commission
14 considers appropriate to—

15 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
16 and Transportation of the Senate;

17 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
18 merce of the House of Representatives; and

19 (C) the President.

20 (e) QUORUM.—Ten members of the Commission, of
21 which 3 members shall be current or former student ath-
22 letes, shall constitute a quorum.

23 (f) INITIAL MEETING.—The Commission shall hold
24 an initial meeting not later than 30 days after the date
25 on which a sufficient number of members have been ap-

1 pointed under subsection (b) to constitute a quorum pur-
2 suant to subsection (e).

3 (g) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold
4 1 or more public hearings.

5 (h) STATUS.—The Commission is not an agency (as
6 defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code).

7 (i) JOINT RESOLUTION.—Any Member of Congress
8 may introduce a joint resolution for consideration to adopt
9 any of the recommendations of the Commission, in whole
10 or in part, including any recommendations from the Com-
11 mission on whether to eliminate, raise, or lower the Pool
12 Benefits Limit.

13 (j) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
14 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits
15 the report required by this section.

16 (k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such
18 sums as may be necessary in any fiscal year, half of which
19 shall be derived from the applicable account of the House
20 of Representatives and half of which shall be derived from
21 the contingent fund of the Senate.

22 **SEC. 117. RECRUITMENT AND TAMPERING.**

23 An intercollegiate athletic association may enforce
24 provisions on recruitment and tampering of student ath-
25 letes or prospective student athletes before and during

1 their eligibility for intercollegiate athletic competition
2 that—

3 (1) prohibit an institution, an employee of an
4 institution, a conference, an employee of a con-
5 ference, or an associated entity from contacting a
6 student athlete who is enrolled at or committed to
7 another institution for the purpose of recruiting
8 them to transfer to or enroll at an institution except
9 for during the 5 consecutive weeks starting 7 days
10 after the last intercollegiate athletic competition in
11 an academic year in the intercollegiate sport in
12 which the student athlete competes and in which
13 student athletes from the same intercollegiate ath-
14 letic association competed;

15 (2) prohibit an athlete agent from contacting
16 an institution, employee of an institution, or institu-
17 tion associated on behalf of a student athlete who is
18 enrolled at or committed to another institution for
19 the purpose of facilitating the transfer or enrollment
20 of the student athlete at the contacted institution ex-
21 cept for during the 5 consecutive weeks starting 7
22 days after the last intercollegiate athletic competi-
23 tion in an academic year in the intercollegiate sport
24 in which the student athlete competes and in which

1 student athletes from the same intercollegiate ath-
2 letic association competed;

3 (3) prohibit an institution, an employee of an
4 institution, a conference, an employee of a con-
5 ference, an associated entity, or an athlete agent
6 from recruiting or contacting a student athlete or
7 prospective student athlete who has not affirmatively
8 opted in to receive such recruitment or contact; or

9 (4) prohibit an institution, an employee of an
10 institution, a volunteer of an institution, an associ-
11 ated entity, an athlete agent, a conference, an em-
12 ployee of a conference, or a volunteer of a conference
13 from inducing a student athlete to enroll at an insti-
14 tution or transfer to an institution by offering com-
15 pensation to a student athlete in violation of para-
16 graphs (1), (2), or (3).

17 **SEC. 118. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be unlawful under the
19 antitrust laws for an intercollegiate athletic association,
20 a conference, or an institution to enforce or comply with,
21 including through rules or bylaws—

22 (1) section 114;

23 (2) section 115;

24 (3) section 113;

1 (4) sections 101(a)(3) and 101(b)(1) and sub-
2 paragraphs (A) and (B) of section 101(b)(2);

3 (5) section 117;

4 (6) section 112;

5 (7) rules, bylaws, or requirements of an inter-
6 collegiate athletic association that determine whether
7 a specific institution is selected to participate in a
8 championship or tournament if the process for se-
9 lecting participants is not entitled to antitrust ex-
10 emption under this subsection;

11 (8) section 103; and

12 (9) section 110.

13 (b) SANCTIONS BY AN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC
14 ASSOCIATION.—It shall not be unlawful under the anti-
15 trust laws for an intercollegiate athletic association to, in-
16 cluding through rules or bylaws—

17 (1) impose a fine against an institution, an em-
18 ployee, or volunteer of an institution, a conference,
19 an employee of a conference, or an associated entity
20 for a violation of sections 110, 112, 113, 114, or
21 115;

22 (2) restrict an institution, employee or volun-
23 teer of an institution, a conference, or an employee
24 of a conference, from participation in intercollegiate
25 athletic competition, including championships or

1 tournaments, for a violation of sections 110, 112,
2 113, 114, or 115;

3 (3) restrict the eligibility of a student athlete
4 who—

5 (A) is not eligible to participate in inter-
6 collegiate athletic competition or participate on
7 a varsity sports team under section 113;

8 (B) has transferred to an institution in a
9 manner that does not comply with section 112;
10 or

11 (C) has received compensation in con-
12 travention of section 114 or section 115; or

13 (4) decertify an athlete agent for violations of
14 section 103 or the amendments made by section
15 102.

16 (c) REQUIREMENTS FOR AN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATH-
17 LETIC ASSOCIATION.—An intercollegiate athletic associa-
18 tion shall not be entitled to the antitrust exemptions set
19 forth in subsections (a) and (b) unless the intercollegiate
20 athletic association has established rules, bylaws, or other
21 regulations implementing paragraphs (1) through (9) of
22 subsection (a) and paragraphs (1) through (4) of sub-
23 section (b).

1 **SEC. 119. PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.**

2 (a) VIOLATIONS.—A person may file a civil action in
3 an appropriate district court of the United States or in
4 an appropriate State court only for a violation of the fol-
5 lowing:

6 (1) Subsections (a) and (c) of section 101.

7 (2) Section 104.

8 (3) Section 105.

9 (4) Section 106.

10 (5) Section 107.

11 (6) Section 108.

12 (7) Section 109.

13 (8) Section 111.

14 (9) Section 112, only to the extent the claim—

15 (A) alleges an intercollegiate athletic asso-
16 ciation, a conference, or an institution has not
17 complied with the transfer standard set forth in
18 section 112;

19 (B) is filed against a Division I, Division
20 II, or Division III institution, as defined by
21 bylaw 20 of the National Collegiate Athletic As-
22 sociation as of the date of the enactment of this
23 Act, or an intercollegiate athletic association or
24 a conference comprised of any such institutions;
25 and

1 (C) is filed in an appropriate district court
2 of the United States.

3 (10) Section 113, only to the extent the claim—

4 (A) alleges an intercollegiate athletic asso-
5 ciation, a conference, or an institution has not
6 complied with the eligibility standard set forth
7 in section 113;

8 (B) is filed against a Division I, Division
9 II, or Division III institution, as defined by
10 bylaw 20 of the National Collegiate Athletic As-
11 sociation as of the date of the enactment of this
12 Act, or an intercollegiate athletic association or
13 a conference comprised of any such institutions;
14 and

15 (C) is filed in an appropriate district court
16 of the United States.

17 (11) Section 114(b).

18 (b) LIMITATION.—The protection from antitrust li-
19 ability set forth in section 118 shall not be limited by a
20 private right of action filed under subsection (a).

21 (c) RELIEF.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—In a civil action brought
23 under subsection (a) in which the plaintiff prevails,
24 the court may award the plaintiff—

25 (A) actual damages; and

1 (B) any other relief, including equitable re-
2 lief or declaratory relief, that the court deter-
3 mines appropriate.

4 (2) ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS.—In a civil
5 action brought under subsection (a), the court may,
6 in its discretion, award reasonable attorney's fees
7 and litigation costs to the prevailing party.

8 (d) LIMITATION ON PRE-DISPUTE AGREEMENTS AND
9 WAIVERS.—

10 (1) PRE-DISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREEMENT.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
12 other provision of law, no intercollegiate athletic
13 association, conference, or institution shall in-
14 clude a pre-dispute arbitration agreement (as
15 defined in section 401 of title 9, United States
16 Code) in an agreement with a student athlete
17 regarding a provision of this title or an amend-
18 ment made by this title.

19 (B) TREATMENT OF CLAIM.—If a claim for
20 a violation of this title arises, a student athlete
21 has the option to arbitrate the dispute if the
22 intercollegiate athletic association, conference,
23 or institution agrees to the arbitration.

24 (2) PRE-DISPUTE JOINT-ACTION WAIVER.—Not-
25 withstanding any other provision of law, no inter-

1 collegiate athletic association or conference shall en-
2 force a pre-dispute joint-action waiver (as defined in
3 section 401 of title 9, United States Code) against
4 a student athlete or group of student athletes with
5 respect to a dispute arising under this title or an
6 amendment made to this title, so long as there are
7 not fewer than 7 named plaintiffs.

8 (e) DISPUTES ARISING FROM ENFORCEMENT OF IN-
9 JUNCTIVE RELIEF SETTLEMENT.—Notwithstanding sub-
10 section (d)—

11 (1) a claim made by any entity or individual
12 subject to the injunctive relief provisions in “In Re
13 College Athlete NIL Legislation”, No. 20–cv–03919
14 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025), regarding whether a
15 name, image, or likeness agreement is for a valid
16 business purpose shall follow the procedure set forth
17 in article 6, section 2, of such settlement; and

18 (2) in any dispute regarding whether an institu-
19 tion, an employee of an institution, a volunteer of an
20 institution, a conference, an employee of a con-
21 ference, or an associated entity complied with para-
22 graph (1) or (2) of section 114(a), an institution, an
23 employee of an institution, a volunteer of an institu-
24 tion, a conference, an employee of a conference, or
25 an associated entity shall follow the procedure set

1 forth in article 6, section 2 of “In Re College Athlete
2 NIL Legislation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal.
3 June 6, 2025).

4 (f) NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR CIVIL ACTIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—A civil action may be
6 brought by a person under this section only if, prior
7 to filing such action, the plaintiff provides to the de-
8 fendant 60 days written notice identifying the spe-
9 cific provisions set forth in subsection (a) that the
10 plaintiff alleges have been or are being violated.

11 (2) EFFECT OF CURE.—In the event a cure is
12 possible, if, within the 60-day period under para-
13 graph (1), the defendant cures the violation and pro-
14 vides the plaintiff with an express written statement
15 that the violation has been cured and no such fur-
16 ther violation shall occur, an action shall not be per-
17 mitted.

18 **SEC. 120. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—No institution, conference, or
20 intercollegiate athletic association, or any agent thereof,
21 may discharge, demote, suspend, withdraw or reduce bene-
22 fits from, threaten, harass, or in any other manner dis-
23 criminate against an employee, a student athlete, a pro-
24 spective student athlete, a former student athlete, a con-
25 tractor, a subcontractor, a service provider, or an agent

1 of an institution, a conference, or an intercollegiate ath-
2 letic association because of any lawful act done by such
3 individual—

4 (1) to provide information to, or cause informa-
5 tion to be provided to, an agency of the Federal
6 Government, an agency of State government, Con-
7 gress, or any law enforcement agency regarding any
8 act or omission that such individual reasonably be-
9 lieves to be a violation of this title; or

10 (2) to file, cause to be filed, testify, participate
11 in, or otherwise assist in a proceeding filed or about
12 to be filed relating to an alleged violation of this
13 title.

14 (b) ENFORCEMENT ACTION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—An individual aggrieved by a
16 violation of subsection (a) may bring an action in
17 the appropriate district court of the United States
18 for the relief set forth in paragraph (2).

19 (2) RELIEF.—An individual prevailing in any
20 action under paragraph (1) may obtain—

21 (A) compensatory damages and the cost of
22 the action, including reasonable attorney's fees
23 and other litigation costs reasonably incurred;

24 (B) in addition to any other relief available
25 at law, equitable relief that may be necessary or

1 appropriate to correct a violation of subsection
2 (a) or make the individual whole again;

3 (C) temporary relief while the case is pend-
4 ing; and

5 (D) if the prevailing individual is an em-
6 ployee—

7 (i) reinstatement with the same se-
8 niority status that the individual would
9 have had, but for the discrimination; and
10 (ii) backpay otherwise owed to the in-
11 dividual, with interest.

12 (c) RIGHTS RETAINED BY INDIVIDUAL.—Nothing in
13 this section shall be construed to diminish the rights, privi-
14 leges, or remedies of any individual under any Federal or
15 State law, or under any labor contract.

16 (d) NONENFORCEABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS
17 WAIVING RIGHTS AND REMEDIES OR REQUIRING ARBI-
18 TRATION OF DISPUTES.—

19 (1) WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND REMEDIES.—The
20 rights and remedies provided for in this section may
21 not be waived by any agreement, policy form, condi-
22 tion of employment, or athletic agreement or partici-
23 pation.

24 (2) PREDISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS.—
25 No predispute arbitration agreement shall be valid

1 or enforceable if the agreement requires arbitration
2 of a dispute arising under this section.

3 **SEC. 121. RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING LAW.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—No State or political subdivision
5 of a State may adopt, maintain, enforce, or continue in
6 effect any law, regulation, rule, requirement, or standard
7 that—

8 (1) conflicts with any provision of this title that
9 would prevent compliance with this title; or

10 (2) governs, regulates, or invalidates policies or
11 rules of an institution, a conference, or an intercolle-
12 giate athletic association that regulates—

13 (A) the compensation to a student athlete
14 or prospective student athlete for the use of
15 their name, image, or likeness, except as nec-
16 essary to comply with this title;

17 (B) transfers of student athletes between
18 institutions; or

19 (C) the eligibility of a student athlete to
20 participate in intercollegiate athletics.

21 (b) PRESERVATION OF STATE LAWS.—The following
22 State laws, rules, regulations, or requirements, or common
23 law rights or remedies shall not be preempted, displaced,
24 or supplanted except to the extent that such law rule, reg-

1 ulation, requirement, or common law right or remedy con-
2 flicts with subsection (a):

3 (1) Uniform Athlete Agent Acts.

4 (2) Civil rights laws.

5 (3) Tort law.

6 (4) Criminal law.

7 (5) Any law, whether statutory or common law,
8 that gives rise to a cause of action for personal in-
9 jury, wrongful death, property damage, sexual as-
10 sult, injury, or harassment, or other financial,
11 physical, reputational, or psychological injury based
12 in negligence, strict liability, products liability, or
13 failure to warn.

14 (6) Laws that relate to student or campus safe-
15 ty.

16 (7) Fraud.

17 (8) Privacy or data breach.

18 (9) Contract law.

19 (10) Trademark law.

20 (11) Copyright law.

21 (12) Consumer protection law.

22 (c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

23 (1) ANTITRUST LAWS.—To the extent liability
24 for violations of the antitrust laws is not limited by

1 this title, subsection (a) shall not be construed to
2 preempt, displace, or supplant the antitrust laws.

3 (2) FEDERAL TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT
4 LAW.—Nothing in this title or the amendments
5 made by this title may be construed to override,
6 modify, or amend the applicability of Federal trade-
7 mark or copyright law.

8 **SEC. 122. NEUTRALITY ON EMPLOYEE OR NON-EMPLOYEE**
9 **STATUS.**

10 This title is neutral on, and does nothing to alter,
11 employee or non-employee status for student athletes.

12 **SEC. 123. APPLICABILITY.**

13 This title, and the amendments made by this title,
14 shall apply with respect to any action or proceeding that
15 is pending on or commenced on or after the date of the
16 enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 124. SEVERABILITY.**

18 If any provision of this title, or an amendment made
19 by this title, is determined to be unenforceable or invalid,
20 the remaining provisions of this title and the amendments
21 made by this title shall not be affected.

1 **TITLE II—SPORTS**
2 **BROADCASTING**

3 **SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

4 (a) REFERENCES TO SPORTS BROADCASTING ACT OF
5 1961.—In this Act, the term “Sports Broadcasting Act
6 of 1961” means the Act of September 30, 1961 (15
7 U.S.C. 1291 et seq.).

8 (b) AMENDMENTS TO SPORTS BROADCASTING ACT
9 OF 1961.—The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is
10 amended—

11 (1) by redesignating sections 5 and 6 (15
12 U.S.C. 1295, 1291 note) as sections 8 and 9, respec-
13 tively; and

14 (2) in section 8, as so redesignated—

15 (A) by striking “As used in this Act, ‘per-
16 sons’ means” and inserting the following: “As
17 used in this Act:”

18 “(12) PERSONS.—The term ‘persons’ means”;

19 (B) by inserting before paragraph (12), as
20 so designated, the following:

21 “(1) COLLECTIVE MEDIA RIGHTS REVENUE.—

22 The term ‘collective media rights revenue’ means
23 revenue derived from the sale or transfer of the
24 media rights of the member institutions and member

1 conferences of the covered entity resulting from the
2 joint agreement described in section 5.

3 “(2) CONFERENCE.—The term ‘conference’
4 means any organization that is not an intercollegiate
5 athletic association and that—

6 “(A) has 2 or more institutions as mem-
7 bers; and

8 “(B) arranges championships for inter-
9 collegiate athletic competitions or sets rules for
10 intercollegiate athletic competitions.

11 “(3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
12 tity’ means the entity formed by a joint agreement
13 of institutions or conferences described in subpara-
14 graph (A) or (B) of section 5(b)(1) that meets each
15 of the requirements under section 5.

16 “(4) GRANT-IN-AID.—The term ‘grant-in-aid’—

17 “(A) means a scholarship, grant, stipend,
18 or other form of financial assistance, including
19 the provision of tuition, room, board, books, or
20 funds for fees or personal expenses, that—

21 “(i) is paid or provided by an institu-
22 tion to a student for the undergraduate or
23 graduate course of study of the student;
24 and

1 “(ii) is in an amount that does not ex-
2 ceed the cost of attendance for the student
3 at the institution; and

4 “(B) does not include compensation paid
5 to an individual who is a student athlete or a
6 former student athlete.

7 “(5) INSTITUTION.—The term ‘institution’ has
8 the meaning given the term ‘institution of higher
9 education’ in section 101 of the Higher Education
10 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

11 “(6) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-
12 TION.—The term ‘intercollegiate athletic associa-
13 tion’—

14 “(A) means any organization, not-for-prof-
15 it corporation, association, or other group orga-
16 nized in the United States that—

17 “(i) is composed of 2 or more institu-
18 tions or conferences that—

19 “(I) are located in different
20 States; or

21 “(II) participate in intercollegiate
22 athletic competitions in more than 1
23 State;

1 “(ii) sponsors or arranges intercolle-
2 giate athletic competitions between institu-
3 tions;

4 “(iii) sets common rules, standards,
5 procedures, or guidelines for the adminis-
6 tration of intercollegiate athletic competi-
7 tion; and

8 “(iv) is not a conference;

9 “(B) includes—

10 “(i) the National Collegiate Athletic
11 Association; and

12 “(ii) any other national intercollegiate
13 athletic association; and

14 “(C) does not include a corporation, asso-
15 ciation, or other group affiliated with profes-
16 sional athletic competition.

17 “(7) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC COMPETI-
18 TION.—The term ‘intercollegiate athletic competi-
19 tion’ means any varsity intercollegiate sport contest,
20 game, meet, match, tournament, regatta, or other
21 intercollegiate sport event in which student athletes
22 or varsity sports teams compete.

23 “(8) INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.—The term
24 ‘intercollegiate football’ means the intercollegiate
25 sport of football.

1 “(9) INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT.—The term
2 ‘intercollegiate sport’—

3 “(A) means a sport played at the inter-
4 collegiate level, administered by an athletic de-
5 partment, between institutions for which eligi-
6 bility requirements for participation by a stu-
7 dent athlete are established by an interstate
8 intercollegiate athletic association; and

9 “(B) does not include a recreational, intra-
10 mural, or club sport.

11 “(10) MEMBER CONFERENCE.—The term
12 ‘member conference’, with respect to the covered en-
13 tity, means a conference that is a member of the
14 covered entity.

15 “(11) MEMBER INSTITUTION.—The term ‘mem-
16 ber institution’, with respect to the covered entity,
17 means an institution that is a member of the cov-
18 ered entity.”; and

19 (C) by inserting after paragraph (12), as
20 so redesignated, the following:

21 “(13) STUDENT ATHLETE.—The term ‘student
22 athlete’ means an individual who—

23 “(A) is enrolled as a full-time student at
24 an institution;

1 “(B) makes satisfactory progress towards
2 completing a degree; and

3 “(C) participates in intercollegiate athletic
4 competitions or competes for a varsity sports
5 team as part of the institution’s educational,
6 developmental, or extracurricular programs.

7 “(14) TOP 5 HISTORIC OPPONENTS IN INTER-
8 COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.—The term ‘top 5 historic
9 opponents in intercollegiate football’, with respect to
10 an institution, means the 5 other institutions against
11 which the institution has played the most intercolle-
12 giate athletic competitions within intercollegiate
13 football.

14 “(15) TOP 10 HISTORIC OPPONENTS IN INTER-
15 COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.—The term ‘top 10 historic
16 opponents in intercollegiate football’, with respect to
17 an institution, means the 10 other institutions
18 against which the institution has played the most
19 intercollegiate athletic competitions within intercolle-
20 giate football.

21 “(16) TRADITIONAL RIVALRY.—The term ‘tra-
22 ditional rivalry’ means an intercollegiate athletic
23 competition within intercollegiate football that is be-
24 tween varsity sports teams of 2 institutions that—

1 “(A) are both members of the covered enti-
2 ty;

3 “(B) are not members of the same con-
4 ference; and

5 “(C) rank among each other’s top 10 his-
6 toric opponents in intercollegiate football.

7 “(17) VARSITY SPORTS TEAM.—The term ‘var-
8 sity sports team’ means a team composed of student
9 athletes that is organized by an institution for the
10 purpose of intercollegiate athletic competitions.”.

11 **SEC. 202. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY FOR TRANSMISSION**
12 **OF COLLEGIATE SPORTS COMPETITIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Sports Broad-
14 casting Act of 1961 (15 U.S.C. 1291) is amended—

15 (1) by striking “That the” and inserting the
16 following:

17 **“SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS FROM**
18 **ANTITRUST LAWS.**

19 “(a) PROFESSIONAL SPORTS.—The”; and

20 (2) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(b) COLLEGE SPORTS.—The antitrust laws, as de-
22 fined in subsection (a), shall not apply to any joint agree-
23 ment, by or among institutions engaging in or conducting
24 organized intercollegiate sports, or conferences that have
25 such institutions as members, to form and operate a cov-

1 ered entity that complies with and enforces the require-
2 ments of section 5 and sells or otherwise transfers to a
3 third party all or any part of the rights of the institutions
4 or conferences in the sponsored telecasting of the inter-
5 collegiate athletic competitions engaged in or conducted by
6 the institutions or conferences.”.

7 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
8 The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is amended—

9 (1) in section 2 (15 U.S.C. 1292)—

10 (A) by striking “Section 1” and inserting
11 “Section 1(a)”; and

12 (B) by striking “in section 1” and insert-
13 ing “in section 1(a)”;

14 (2) in section 3 (15 U.S.C. 1293), by striking
15 “section 1” each place it appears and inserting “sec-
16 tion 1(a)”; and

17 (3) in section 4 (15 U.S.C. 1294), by striking
18 “section 1” and inserting “section 1(a)”.

19 **SEC. 203. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTITIES SELLING MEDIA**
20 **RIGHTS.**

21 The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961, as amended
22 by section 201(b)(1) of this Act, is amended by inserting
23 after section 4 (15 U.S.C. 1294) the following:

1 **“SEC. 5. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTITIES SELLING MEDIA**
2 **RIGHTS.**

3 “(a) **CONDITION ON ANTITRUST EXEMPTION.**—Sec-
4 tion 1(b) shall not apply to any joint agreement entered
5 into by institutions or conferences to form the covered en-
6 tity unless the covered entity complies with the require-
7 ments under this section and section 6.

8 “(b) **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COVERED ENTITY.**—

9 “(1) **ELIGIBLE MEMBERSHIP.**—A joint agree-
10 ment to form the covered entity shall be comprised
11 of a voluntary association of institutions or con-
12 ferences that includes, at a minimum, as of the date
13 on which the joint agreement is entered into, not
14 less than 75 percent of the institutions participating
15 in the Football Bowl Subdivision, as defined by
16 Bylaw 20.9.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic As-
17 sociation.

18 “(2) **INVITATION REQUIREMENT.**—

19 “(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The covered entity
20 shall offer membership on fair and nondiscrim-
21 inatory terms to each conference and each insti-
22 tution that is in Division I, as defined by Bylaw
23 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Associa-
24 tion as of the date of enactment of the Protect
25 College Sports Act of 2026.

1 “(B) OPTIONAL PARTICIPATION.—No con-
2 ference or institution shall be required to join
3 the covered entity or accept an offer under sub-
4 paragraph (A), but no conference or institution
5 eligible for membership under subparagraph
6 (A) may be refused an invitation to join the
7 covered entity.

8 “(c) VOTING RIGHTS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

10 “(A) VOTES OF CONFERENCES AND INSTI-
11 TUTIONS.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the
12 covered entity shall—

13 “(i) in the bylaws of the covered enti-
14 ty—

15 “(I) provide that each member
16 conference or member institution has
17 1 vote on each type of decision or de-
18 termination described in paragraph
19 (2); and

20 “(II) specify the minimum num-
21 ber of votes required for each type of
22 decision or determination described in
23 paragraph (2); and

1 “(ii) require the bylaws to be adopted
2 unanimously by the member conferences
3 and member institutions.

4 “(B) VOTES OF STUDENT ATHLETES.—
5 The covered entity shall—

6 “(i) for purposes of decisions and de-
7 terminations described in paragraph
8 (2)(C), designate not fewer than 10 indi-
9 viduals who, as of the date of designation,
10 are student athletes or were student ath-
11 letes during the preceding 10-year period;
12 and

13 “(ii) ensure that each individual des-
14 ignated under clause (i) has 1 vote on a
15 decision or determination described in
16 paragraph (2)(C).

17 “(C) NON-VOTING MEMBER CON-
18 FERENCES.—If a conference and 1 or more of
19 the institutions of the conference are members
20 of the covered entity, the conference shall be a
21 non-voting member of the covered entity.

22 “(2) VOTING THRESHOLDS.—

23 “(A) MAJOR DECISIONS.—A major deci-
24 sion, as defined by the bylaws of the covered
25 entity, shall require a vote totaling not less than

1 $\frac{2}{3}$ of the member conferences or member insti-
2 tutions exercising their voting rights.

3 “(B) NON-MAJOR DECISIONS.—A non-
4 major decision, as defined by the bylaws of the
5 covered entity, shall require a vote totaling not
6 less than a majority of the member conferences
7 or member institutions exercising their voting
8 rights.

9 “(C) REVENUE DISTRIBUTIONS OR
10 CHANGES TO VOTING ALLOCATIONS.—A deter-
11 mination regarding the allocation of collective
12 media rights revenue or a decision to change a
13 voting threshold described in this paragraph
14 shall require a unanimous vote of the member
15 conferences, member institutions, or current or
16 former student athletes exercising their voting
17 rights.

18 “(D) MEDIA RIGHTS REQUIREMENT.—A
19 determination of which media rights shall be
20 contributed to the covered entity pursuant to
21 subsection (f) shall require a unanimous vote of
22 the member conferences or member institutions
23 exercising their voting rights.

24 “(d) REVENUE ALLOCATION FORMULA.—

1 “(1) METHOD.—Not less frequently than once
2 each academic year, the covered entity shall dis-
3 tribute the collective media rights revenue among
4 member conferences and member institutions—

5 “(A) according to the allocation of collec-
6 tive media rights revenue most recently deter-
7 mined in accordance with subsection (c)(2)(C);
8 and

9 “(B) in accordance with the requirements
10 of this subsection.

11 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The distribution of col-
12 lective media rights revenue under paragraph (1)
13 shall—

14 “(A) ensure that—

15 “(i) each member conference or mem-
16 ber institution receives a minimum dis-
17 tribution of collective media rights revenue,
18 the amount of which shall be established
19 under a bylaw adopted in accordance with
20 subsection (c)(2)(C); and

21 “(ii) each member institution receives
22 more collective media rights revenue (ex-
23 cluding revenue from the College Football
24 Playoff) during each academic year than
25 the largest amount of collective media

1 rights revenue (excluding revenue from the
2 College Football Playoff) that the institu-
3 tion received in any single academic year
4 during the period of academic year 2021–
5 2022 through academic year 2024–2025;

6 “(B) distribute not less than 15 percent of
7 the collective media rights revenue that remains
8 after compliance with subparagraph (A) equally
9 among all member institutions that received
10 revenue from intercollegiate athletic competi-
11 tions within intercollegiate football in the Foot-
12 ball Bowl Subdivision during academic year
13 2024–2025; and

14 “(C) distribute the collective media rights
15 revenue that remains after compliance with sub-
16 paragraphs (A) and (B) to member institutions
17 based on the performance of each institution
18 during the academic year with respect to the in-
19 stitution’s contribution to the collective media
20 rights revenue.

21 “(3) TRANSFER OF REVENUE.—Before distrib-
22 uting collective media rights revenue under para-
23 graph (1), the covered entity shall, in accordance
24 with section 106, transfer an amount of collective
25 media rights revenue to the fund or program estab-

1 lished under that section to ensure that the program
2 or fund is adequately funded.

3 “(e) PROTECTION OF WOMEN’S AND OLYMPIC
4 SPORTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any member institution
6 that receives collective media rights revenue shall,
7 consistent with applicable intercollegiate athletic as-
8 sociation rules, offer and maintain at least as many
9 grant-in-aid opportunities and roster spots for non-
10 revenue generating intercollegiate sports programs,
11 including women’s and Olympic intercollegiate sports
12 programs, during each academic year as the member
13 institution provided during the 2024–2025 academic
14 year.

15 “(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sub-
16 section, the term ‘non-revenue generating intercolle-
17 giate sports program’ means an intercollegiate
18 sports program at an institution for which, during
19 an academic year, the revenues generated specifically
20 attributable to that sports program are less than the
21 direct and allocated operating expenses of that
22 sports program.

23 “(f) CONTRIBUTION OF MEDIA RIGHTS.—

24 “(1) CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION.—The cov-
25 ered entity shall require each member institution or

1 member conference, as a condition of receiving a dis-
2 tribution of collective media rights revenue from the
3 covered entity, to contribute to the covered entity,
4 for sale by the covered entity, the media rights of
5 the member institution or member conference, deter-
6 mined by a vote described in subsection (c)(2)(D),
7 with the exception of the rights in the sponsored
8 telecasting of the basketball tournaments organized
9 by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

10 “(2) EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY.—The covered en-
11 tity shall have the exclusive authority to negotiate,
12 sell, license, sublicense, and otherwise transfer on a
13 pooled basis media rights contributed under para-
14 graph (1), with the exception of the rights in the
15 sponsored telecasting of the basketball tournaments
16 organized by the National Collegiate Athletic Asso-
17 ciation.

18 “(3) BINDING AGREEMENT.—The covered enti-
19 ty shall maintain a written agreement, binding on all
20 member institutions or member conferences, that
21 governs the collection and distribution of collective
22 media rights revenue for the duration of the agree-
23 ment.

24 “(g) PRESERVATION OF CONFERENCE OPPONENTS
25 AND TRADITIONAL RIVALRIES.—

1 “(1) CONFERENCE OPPONENTS.—If, as of the
2 date of enactment of the Protect College Sports Act
3 of 2026, more than 6 of the top 10 historic oppo-
4 nents in intercollegiate football of a member institu-
5 tion were intra-conference opponents of the member
6 institution in intercollegiate football during the most
7 recently completed season, the covered entity shall
8 require the member institution to preserve, to the
9 maximum extent practicable, intercollegiate athletic
10 competitions within intercollegiate football amongst
11 all of its current conference opponents as of that
12 date of enactment.

13 “(2) TRADITIONAL RIVALRIES.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If, as of the date of
15 enactment of the Protect College Sports Act of
16 2026, more than 2 of the top 10 historic oppo-
17 nents in intercollegiate football of a member in-
18 stitution were out-of-conference opponents of
19 the member institution in intercollegiate foot-
20 ball during the most recently completed season,
21 the covered entity shall require the member in-
22 stitution to play intercollegiate athletic competi-
23 tions within intercollegiate football that con-
24 stitute traditional rivalries, and ensure that—

1 “(i) the member institution plays not
2 fewer than 2 intercollegiate athletic com-
3 petitions within intercollegiate football that
4 constitute a traditional rivalry every 4
5 years; and

6 “(ii) the member institution plays not
7 less than 1 intercollegiate athletic competi-
8 tion within intercollegiate football each
9 year with an institution that is in a dif-
10 ferent conference and is one of the top 5
11 historic opponents in intercollegiate foot-
12 ball of the member institution.

13 “(B) INSTITUTIONS WITH FEWER THAN 4
14 OUT-OF-CONFERENCE RIVALS.—If a member in-
15 stitution is subject to the requirements under
16 subparagraph (A), and fewer than 4 of the top
17 10 historic opponents of the member institution
18 in intercollegiate football are member institu-
19 tions that belong to a different conference, the
20 member institution shall seek to comply with
21 clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) to the
22 extent practicable.

23 “(C) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this
24 paragraph shall be construed to affect the abil-
25 ity of a member institution to engage in inter-

1 collegiate athletic competitions within intercolle-
2 giate football against any other member institu-
3 tion within the same conference that was 1 of
4 the top 10 historic opponents in intercollegiate
5 football of the member institution as of the date
6 of enactment of the Protect College Sports Act
7 of 2026.

8 “(3) PERIODIC REVIEW; AUTHORITY TO MODIFY
9 REQUIREMENTS.—8 years after the date of enact-
10 ment of the Protect College Sports Act of 2026, and
11 periodically thereafter, but not more frequently than
12 once every 4 years, the covered entity—

13 “(A) may review the effects of the require-
14 ments under this subsection on fan interest,
15 student athletes, media revenues, and preserva-
16 tion of traditional rivalries and historic oppo-
17 nents; and

18 “(B) may modify the requirements under
19 this subsection.

20 “(h) ENFORCEMENT OF THE ACT; RIGHT TO
21 CURE.—

22 “(1) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Subject to
23 paragraph (2), a person aggrieved by a violation of
24 section 1(b), this section, section 6, or section 7, in-
25 cluding a party to a joint agreement to form the cov-

1 ered entity, may bring a civil action against the cov-
2 ered entity in an appropriate district court of the
3 United States.

4 “(2) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE.—A
5 person may only bring a civil action under para-
6 graph (1) for a violation of section 1(b), this section,
7 section 6, or section 7 if—

8 “(A) not later than 1 year before bringing
9 the civil action, the person provides to the de-
10 fendant specific notice of the violation and an
11 opportunity to cure the violation; and

12 “(B) the defendant does not cure the viola-
13 tion during the 1-year period beginning on the
14 date of the notice described in subparagraph
15 (A).

16 “(i) PARTICIPATION IN COVERED ENTITY OP-
17 TIONAL.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act shall,
19 under Federal or State law, establish or be con-
20 strued to require, mandate, or encourage any insti-
21 tution or conference to join, participate in, or trans-
22 fer any media rights to the covered entity or to cre-
23 ate or give rise to any duty, obligation, or standard
24 of care to take such action.

1 “(2) EFFECT ON LIABILITY.—Nothing in this
2 Act, any amendments made by this Act, or a deci-
3 sion by an institution or conference to decline to join
4 or participate in the covered entity may be used to
5 support any claim, cause of action, or theory of li-
6 ability under Federal or State law that would impose
7 liability on an institution or conference or compel an
8 institution or conference to join or participate in the
9 covered entity.”.

10 **SEC. 204. MARKET LEVEL BROADCAST ACCESS FOR COL-**
11 **LEGE FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL.**

12 The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is amended by
13 inserting after section 5 (as added by section 203 of this
14 Act) the following:

15 **“SEC. 6. MARKET-LEVEL BROADCAST ACCESS FOR COL-**
16 **LEGE FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL.**

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) DESIGNATED MARKET AREA.—The term
19 ‘designated market area’ has the meaning given the
20 term in section 122(j)(2)(C) of title 17, United
21 States Code.

22 “(2) LOCAL DESIGNATED MARKET AREA.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘local des-
24 ignated market area’ means an area that—

1 “(i) consists of a designated market
2 area that includes the principal campus of
3 an institution that is a member of the cov-
4 ered entity; and

5 “(ii) at the election of the member in-
6 stitution and the applicable network, dis-
7 tributor, or licensee holding market-level
8 rights, may include not more than 1 addi-
9 tional geographically adjacent designated
10 market area, or designated market area
11 within the State in which the principal
12 campus of the member institution is lo-
13 cated, in which a substantial portion of the
14 student body, alumni, or in-State resident
15 population of the member institution re-
16 sides.

17 “(B) PUBLICATION OF LIST.—The Federal
18 Communications Commission shall—

19 “(i) not later than 180 days after the
20 date of enactment of the Protect College
21 Sports Act of 2026, publish a list of des-
22 ignated market areas described in subpara-
23 graph (A); and

24 “(ii) maintain the list described in
25 clause (i) on a public website.

1 “(3) LOCAL OUTLET OPTION.—The term ‘Local
2 Outlet option’ means the opportunity for not less
3 than 1 outlet to carry a live intercollegiate athletic
4 competition without charge to viewers within the
5 local designated market area of a member institution
6 that is participating in the competition.

7 “(b) REQUIREMENT OF LOCAL OUTLET OPTION.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of the ex-
9 emption under section 1(b)(1), the covered entity
10 shall make commercially available by purchase or li-
11 cense, on a non-exclusive basis, for each intercolle-
12 giate athletic competition in football or basketball,
13 not less than 1 Local Outlet option in the local des-
14 ignated market area of each member institution par-
15 ticipating in the competition.

16 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
17 paragraph (1) shall be construed to require carriage
18 of an intercollegiate athletic competition by more
19 than 1 Local Outlet in a given designated market
20 area.

21 “(3) NO EFFECT ON NATIONAL MEDIA AGREE-
22 MENTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall limit the
23 covered entity’s ability to negotiate nationwide or re-
24 gional media agreements.

1 “(4) REQUIREMENT FULFILLMENT.—A na-
2 tional rights holder may satisfy the requirement
3 under paragraph (1) by making intercollegiate ath-
4 letic competitions available to viewers in the applica-
5 ble local designated market areas using an offering
6 that the rights holder owns or is affiliated with that
7 is freely available to viewers.

8 “(c) GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATION.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each covered entity, and
10 any network, distributor, or licensee holding market-
11 level rights or seeking Local Outlet option rights to
12 intercollegiate athletic competitions described in sub-
13 section (b), shall negotiate in good faith to fulfill the
14 requirement of that subsection.

15 “(2) ENFORCEMENT.—The Federal Commu-
16 nications Commission shall have jurisdiction over
17 complaints alleging a violation of paragraph (1).”.

18 **SEC. 205. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN CONFERENCE MERG-**
19 **ERS OR ACQUISITION.**

20 The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is amended by
21 inserting after section 6 (as added by section 204 of this
22 Act) the following:

1 **“SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN CONFERENCE MERG-**
2 **ERS AND ACQUISITIONS.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful under the
4 antitrust laws, as defined in section 1(a), for any con-
5 ference that reported more than \$1,000,000,000 in rev-
6 enue on its fiscal year 2025 tax return to merge or consoli-
7 date with, or to acquire the assets, media rights (including
8 media rights of an institution), or membership of, another
9 conference, if as a result of the transaction, the number
10 of institutions that are members of the conference would
11 be less than the membership requirements under section
12 5(b)(1)(A).

13 “(b) DEFENSES NOT APPLICABLE.—A transaction
14 prohibited under subsection (a) may not be justified by
15 efficiencies, procompetitive effects, or any other defense
16 under the antitrust laws, as defined in section 1(a).

17 “(c) EFFECT.—Any transaction consummated in vio-
18 lation of subsection (a) shall be void.”.

19 **SEC. 206. AMENDMENTS TO INTERCOLLEGIATE AND INTER-**
20 **SCHOLASTIC FOOTBALL CONTEST LIMITA-**
21 **TIONS.**

22 Section 3 of the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 (15
23 U.S.C. 1293) is amended—

24 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by striking “second Friday in Sep-
2 tember” and inserting “first Friday in Sep-
3 tember”; and

4 (B) by striking “second Saturday in De-
5 cember” and inserting “third Saturday in De-
6 cember”;

7 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
8 end;

9 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
10 the end and inserting “, and”; and

11 (4) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(4) the season and any postseason, including
13 championships, of such intercollegiate football con-
14 tests conclude not later than January 8 of any year,
15 to the extent practicable.”.

16 **SEC. 207. MEDIA RIGHTS UTILIZATION REQUIREMENT FOR**
17 **COLLEGE SPORTS OTHER THAN FOOTBALL**
18 **AND BASKETBALL.**

19 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “cov-
20 ered entity”, “intercollegiate athletic competition”, “mem-
21 ber conference”, and “member institution” have the mean-
22 ings given those terms in section 8 of the Sports Broad-
23 casting Act, as redesignated by section 201(b)(1) of this
24 Act.

1 (b) REQUIREMENT OF USE.—A distributor to which
2 any media rights for intercollegiate athletic competitions
3 in a sport other than football or basketball are sold, li-
4 censed, or otherwise conveyed by the covered entity or its
5 member institutions or member conferences after the date
6 of enactment of this Act shall affirmatively use those
7 rights by making the competitions reasonably available to
8 the public not later than 1 year after the effective date
9 of the agreement under which the rights are sold, licensed,
10 or otherwise conveyed.

11 (c) REVERSION OF RIGHTS.—

12 (1) FAILURE TO USE RIGHTS; OPPORTUNITY TO
13 CURE.—If a distributor to which media rights for
14 intercollegiate athletic competitions in a sport other
15 than football or basketball are sold, licensed, or oth-
16 erwise conveyed as described in subsection (b) does
17 not use the rights during the 1-year period begin-
18 ning on the effective date of the agreement under
19 which the rights are sold, licensed, or otherwise con-
20 veyed, the covered entity, member institution, or
21 member conference notifies the distributor after the
22 expiration of that 1-year period of the distributor's
23 failure to use the rights, and the distributor does not
24 use the rights during the 180-day period beginning
25 on the date of the notification, the rights for that

1 sport shall revert to the originating covered entity,
2 member institution, or member conference.

3 (2) RECONVEYANCE.—Upon the reversion of
4 rights under paragraph (1), the covered entity,
5 member institution, or member conference may re-
6 sell, relicense, or otherwise reconvey the rights to an-
7 other entity without penalty or liability for breach of
8 the original agreement described in that paragraph.

9 (d) SAVINGS.—Nothing in this section shall be con-
10 strued to modify the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961,
11 as amended by this title.