

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4668

AN ACT

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,*

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

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

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 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. Congressional approval of continuation of revenue share cap and retention fund.
- 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.
- Sec. 125. Protection of women’s sports and Olympic sports.
- Sec. 126. Mid-sized conference representation on intercollegiate athletic association governing boards.
- Sec. 127. Title IX savings clause.
- Sec. 128. Protecting opportunities for American student athletes.
- Sec. 129. Disclosure of foreign financing of intercollegiate athletics.

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.

TITLE III—HBCU SPORTS MEDIA AND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

- Sec. 301. Short title.
- Sec. 302. Grants for improvement of broadband, technology, media, and sports broadcast infrastructure of HBCUs.
- Sec. 303. Grant uses.
- Sec. 304. Coordination.
- Sec. 305. Reports and evaluation.
- Sec. 306. Definitions.
- Sec. 307. Authorization of appropriations.

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

4 **SEC. 100. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this title:

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

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

14 (B) any similar State antitrust law, includ-
 15 ing a State law provision that applies to cov-
 16 ering unfair methods of competition having the
 17 force and effect of law.

(2) ASSOCIATED ENTITY.—The term “associated entity” means any individual or entity, including a collective, that—

(A) is known, or was known, or should have been known to the athletics department staff of an institution to exist, in significant part, for the purpose of—

(i) promoting or supporting a particular institution’s intercollegiate athletics program or student athletes; or

(ii) creating or identifying name, image, and likeness opportunities solely for a particular institution’s student athletes;

(B) is or was a member, employee, director, officer, owner, or agent of an individual or entity described in subparagraph (A);

(C) directly or indirectly (including contributions by an affiliated entity, individual, or family member) has contributed more than \$50,000 over their lifetime to a particular institution or to an individual or entity described in subparagraph (A);

(D) has—

(i) been directed or requested by an institution’s athletic department staff to

1 assist in the recruitment or retention of
 2 student athletes or prospective student
 3 athletes; or

4 (ii) otherwise assisted in the recruit-
 5 ment or retention of student athletes or
 6 prospective student athletes; or

7 (E) is owned, controlled, or operated by, or
 8 otherwise affiliated with the individuals or enti-
 9 ties described in subparagraphs (A) through
 10 (D), other than a publicly traded corporation.

11 (3) ATHLETE AGENT.—The term “athlete
 12 agent” has the meaning given that term in section
 13 2 of the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act
 14 (15 U.S.C. 7801).

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

16 (A) means a person, corporation, booster
 17 organization, tax-exempt organization, or other
 18 entity that provides donations or other support
 19 directly or indirectly to or for the benefit or
 20 support of—

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

23 (ii) the intercollegiate athletics pro-
 24 gram or any booster organization of an in-
 25 stitution; and

1 (B) does not include—

2 (i) an immediate family member of a
3 student athlete; or

4 (ii) an individual or entity that—

5 (I) licenses trademark rights of
6 an institution; and

7 (II) does not—

8 (aa) license name, image,
9 and likeness rights of student
10 athletes; or

11 (bb) make payments ear-
12 marked or designated to fund
13 name, image, or likeness licenses
14 or other payments to student
15 athletes.

16 (5) COMPENSATION.—The term “compensa-
17 tion”—

18 (A) means any payment, remuneration, or
19 benefit provided to a student athlete or a pro-
20 spective student athlete; and

21 (B) does not include—

22 (i) grants-in-aid;

23 (ii) Federal Pell Grants provided
24 under section 401 of the Higher Education
25 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) or any

other Federal or State grants unrelated to and not awarded with regard to participation in intercollegiate sports;

(iii) health insurance and the costs of health care funded by an institution, intercollegiate athletic association, or conference;

(iv) disability and loss-of-value insurance, including disability and loss-of-value insurance funded by an institution, intercollegiate athletic association, or conference;

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

(vi) hourly wages and benefits for work performed outside of participating in intercollegiate sports at a rate commensurate with the prevailing rate in the relevant State or locality for similar work;

(vii) enhanced education benefits, including academic awards;

(viii) financial literacy or tax education resources; or

1 (ix) any program to connect student
 2 athletes with employers and facilitate em-
 3 ployment opportunities, if—

4 (I) the financial terms of such
 5 employment opportunities are con-
 6 sistent with the terms offered to simi-
 7 larly situated employees who are not
 8 student athletes; and

9 (II) such program is not used to
 10 induce a student athlete to attend a
 11 particular institution.

12 (6) CONFERENCE.—The term “conference”
 13 means any organization that is not an intercollegiate
 14 athletic association and that—

15 (A) has 2 or more institutions as members;
 16 and

17 (B) arranges championships for intercolle-
 18 giate athletic competitions or sets rules for
 19 intercollegiate athletic competition.

20 (7) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—The term “cost of
 21 attendance”—

22 (A) has the meaning given that term in
 23 section 472 of the Higher Education Act of
 24 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll); and

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

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

6 (A) a scholarship, grant, stipend, or other
 7 form of financial assistance, including the provi-
 8 sion of tuition, room, board, books, or funds for
 9 fees or personal expenses, that—

10 (i) is paid or provided by an institu-
 11 tion to a student for the undergraduate or
 12 graduate education of the student; and

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

16 (B) does not include compensation paid to
 17 a student athlete.

18 (9) IMAGE.—With respect to a student athlete,
 19 the term “image” means a picture, video, computer-
 20 generated representation, or other depiction that
 21 identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linked to the
 22 student athlete.

23 (10) INSTITUTION.—Except as otherwise explic-
 24 itly provided, the term “institution” has the mean-
 25 ing given the term “institution of higher education”

1 under section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
2 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

3 (11) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-
4 TION.—The term “intercollegiate athletic associa-
5 tion”—

6 (A) means any organization, not-for-profit
7 corporation, association, or any other group or-
8 ganized in the United States that—

9 (i) sponsors or arranges intercollegiate
10 athletic competition between institutions;

11 (ii) sets common rules, standards,
12 procedures, or guidelines for the adminis-
13 tration of intercollegiate athletic competi-
14 tion;

15 (iii) is composed of 2 or more institu-
16 tions or conferences that are located in dif-
17 ferent States or participate in intercolle-
18 giate athletic competition in more than 1
19 State; and

20 (iv) is not a conference;

21 (B) includes—

22 (i) the National Collegiate Athletic
23 Association; and

24 (ii) any other national intercollegiate
25 athletic association; and

1 (C) does not include a corporation, associa-
 2 tion, or other group affiliated with professional
 3 athletic competition.

4 (12) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC COMPETI-
 5 TION.—The term “intercollegiate athletic competi-
 6 tion” means any intercollegiate sport contest, game,
 7 meet, match, tournament, regatta, or other inter-
 8 collegiate sport event in which student athletes or
 9 varsity sports teams compete.

10 (13) INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT.—The term
 11 “intercollegiate sport”—

12 (A) means a sport played between institu-
 13 tions for which eligibility requirements for par-
 14 ticipation by a student athlete are established
 15 by an intercollegiate athletic association; and

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

18 (14) LIKENESS.—With respect to a student
 19 athlete, the term “likeness” means a physical or dig-
 20 ital depiction or representation that identifies, is
 21 linked to, or is reasonably linked to the student ath-
 22 lete, including —

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

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

3 (C) the jersey number associated with the
 4 student athlete during the period of athletic
 5 participation by the student athlete at an insti-
 6 tution if the jersey number is accompanied by—

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

9 (ii) some other means by which the
 10 jersey number is associated with the stu-
 11 dent athlete.

12 (15) NAME.—With respect to a student athlete,
 13 the term “name” means the first or last name that
 14 identifies the student athlete, a nickname or as-
 15 sumed name of the student athlete, or a username
 16 associated with the student athlete on any public-
 17 facing internet platform when used in a context that
 18 identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linked to the
 19 student athlete.

20 (16) NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS AGREE-
 21 MENT.—The term “name, image, and likeness agree-
 22 ment” means a contract or similar agreement be-
 23 tween a student athlete (or group of student ath-
 24 letes) and a conference, institution, intercollegiate
 25 athletic association, associated entity, collective, or

1 third party regarding the commercial use of the
 2 name, image, and likeness rights of the student ath-
 3 lete (or group of student athletes).

4 (17) NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS RIGHTS.—

5 The term “name, image, and likeness rights” means
 6 the ability of a student athlete to market and profit
 7 from the commercial use of his or her name, image,
 8 or likeness.

9 (18) PROSPECTIVE STUDENT ATHLETE.—The

10 term “prospective student athlete” means an indi-
 11 vidual who is recruited, actively being recruited, or
 12 has been contacted for the purposes of recruitment
 13 to attend an institution as a student athlete, but has
 14 not yet enrolled at the institution.

15 (19) REVENUE SHARE CAP.—The term “rev-

16 enue share cap” means the Benefits Pool Limit set
 17 forth in the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agreement
 18 approved by the court in “In Re College Athlete
 19 NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June
 20 6, 2025), or as modified pursuant to the amendment
 21 provision specified in paragraph 55 of that settle-
 22 ment.

23 (20) STUDENT ATHLETE.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “student ath-

25 lete” means an individual who is enrolled as a

1 full-time student (as defined in section 668.2 of
 2 title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (as in ef-
 3 fect on the day before the date of the enact-
 4 ment of this Act)) at an institution and who—

5 (i) makes satisfactory academic
 6 progress (as determined in accordance with
 7 section 668.34 of such title 34 (as in effect
 8 on the day before the date of the enact-
 9 ment of this Act)) toward completing a de-
 10 gree; and

11 (ii) participates in intercollegiate ath-
 12 letic competition or competes for a varsity
 13 sports team as part of the institution's
 14 educational, developmental, or extra-
 15 curricular programs.

16 (B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
 17 subparagraph (A)(i) shall be construed to pre-
 18 clude an institution, conference, or intercolle-
 19 giate athletic association from establishing sat-
 20 isfactory academic progress standards that are
 21 more stringent than the requirements described
 22 in subparagraph (A)(i), if such standards are
 23 required of all student athletes, or in the case
 24 of an institution, of all full-time students.

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

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

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

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

15 (a) STUDENT ATHLETE NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKE-
 16 NESS COMPENSATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this
 18 title, an institution, conference, intercollegiate ath-
 19 letic association, or any representative of such an
 20 entity may not—

21 (A) restrict the ability of a student athlete,
 22 group of student athletes, or prospective stu-
 23 dent athlete—

1 (i) to market or earn compensation
 2 for the value of their name, image, or like-
 3 ness rights; or

4 (ii) to enter into a name, image, and
 5 likeness agreement;

6 (B) restrict the eligibility for intercollegiate
 7 athletic competition for a student athlete or
 8 prospective student athlete on the basis of the
 9 student athlete or prospective student athlete
 10 entering into a name, image, and likeness
 11 agreement or marketing or earning compensa-
 12 tion for the value of their name, image, or like-
 13 ness;

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

24 (D) unless otherwise required by law, re-
 25 voke, reduce, or decline to renew a grant-in-aid

1 for a student athlete or prospective student ath-
2 lete based on the student athlete or prospective
3 student athlete entering into a name, image,
4 and likeness agreement or marketing or earning
5 compensation for the value of their name,
6 image, or likeness.

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

17 (3) EXCEPTIONS.—

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

1 (B) CERTAIN USES.—An institution may
 2 restrict the eligibility for intercollegiate athletic
 3 competition of a student athlete or prospective
 4 student athlete if, in connection with a name,
 5 image, and likeness agreement, the student ath-
 6 lete or prospective student athlete uses a facil-
 7 ity, uniform, equipment, registered or unregis-
 8 tered trademark, copyright-protected product,
 9 or the official logo, mark, or other indicia of the
 10 institution without the express consent of the
 11 institution.

12 (b) MANDATORY DISCLOSURES BY STUDENT ATH-
 13 LETES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—All student athletes shall re-
 15 port to their institution and their intercollegiate ath-
 16 letic association, or to an entity designated by their
 17 intercollegiate athletic association and under the
 18 control of that intercollegiate athletic association
 19 pursuant to the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agree-
 20 ment approved by the court in “In Re College Ath-
 21 lete NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal.
 22 June 6, 2025)—

23 (A) not later than 5 days after entering
 24 into a name, image, and likeness agreement,
 25 the terms of any such agreement, including the

1 amount and source, that exceeds \$600 in value,
 2 including multiple payments, remunerations, or
 3 benefits from the same entity that exceeds a
 4 total of \$600 over a 12-month period; and

5 (B) to the extent not reported under sub-
 6 paragraph (A), not later than 30 days after re-
 7 ceiving compensation for the name, image, or
 8 likeness of the student athlete, the amount and
 9 source of any such compensation that exceeds
 10 \$600, including multiple payments, remunera-
 11 tions, or benefits from the same entity that ex-
 12 ceeds a total of \$600 over a 12-month period.

13 (2) MANDATORY DISCLOSURES BY RECRUITED
 14 ATHLETES.—With respect to a student athlete or
 15 prospective student athlete who is recruited to at-
 16 tend, but is not yet enrolled in, an institution, the
 17 student athlete or prospective student athlete shall
 18 report to the institution at which the student athlete
 19 enrolls and their intercollegiate athletic association,
 20 or to an entity designated by that intercollegiate
 21 athletic association and under the control of that
 22 intercollegiate athletic association pursuant to the
 23 Injunctive Relief Settlement Agreement approved by
 24 the court in “In Re College Athlete NIL Litigation”,
 25 No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025)—

1 (A) the terms of any current or ongoing
2 name, image, and likeness agreement that ex-
3 ceeds \$600 in value, including multiple pay-
4 ments, remunerations, or benefits from the
5 same entity that exceeds a total of \$600 over
6 a 12-month period; and

7 (B) to the extent not reported under sub-
8 paragraph (A), the amount and source of any
9 current or ongoing name, image, and likeness
10 compensation that exceeds \$600, including mul-
11 tiple payments, remunerations, or benefits from
12 the same person that exceeds a total of \$600
13 over a 12-month period.

14 (3) EXCEPTION.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1) and (2)
16 shall not apply to either marketing or earning
17 compensation for the value of the name, image,
18 and likeness rights of a student athlete or to
19 the compensation within a name, image, and
20 likeness agreement in which a student athlete
21 receives less than \$600, including multiple pay-
22 ments, remunerations, or benefits from the
23 same person that totals less than \$600 over a
24 12-month period.

1 (B) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—The
 2 amount described in subparagraph (A) shall be
 3 adjusted for inflation by the percent increase, if
 4 any, in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban
 5 Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor
 6 Statistics of the Department of Labor for the
 7 most recent 12-month period for which applica-
 8 ble data is available.

9 (4) RELEASE OF INFORMATION.—Except as
 10 provided in section 104 or as necessary to comply
 11 with this Act, an institution may not release any in-
 12 formation that would identify a student athlete or
 13 prospective student athlete in a disclosure under
 14 paragraph (1) or (2) without the express written
 15 consent of the student athlete, prospective student
 16 athlete, athlete agent of the student athlete or pro-
 17 spective student athlete, or, in case of a minor, the
 18 parent or legal guardian of the minor.

19 (5) LIMITATION.—This subsection shall apply
 20 only to student athletes and prospective student ath-
 21 letes of institutions whose primary membership is in
 22 Division I, as defined by bylaw 20.9 of the National
 23 Collegiate Athletic Association, or a successor bylaw.

24 (c) NAME, IMAGE, OR LIKENESS COMPENSATION BY
 25 INSTITUTIONS.—Subject to the requirements of this title,

1 an institution, intercollegiate athletic association, con-
 2 ference, collective, associated entity, or third party, may
 3 pay, provide, or facilitate compensation to a student ath-
 4 lete for the use of the name, image, or likeness of the stu-
 5 dent athlete.

6 (d) RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION.—An institution,
 7 intercollegiate athletic association, or conference may not
 8 restrict the eligibility for intercollegiate athletic competi-
 9 tion, or any other event or activity relating to intercolle-
 10 giate athletic competition, of a prospective student athlete
 11 or student athlete based on the prospective student athlete
 12 or student athlete having obtained an athlete agent or
 13 legal representative.

14 (e) EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES REGARDING THIS
 15 TITLE.—An intercollegiate athletic association shall pro-
 16 vide student athletes and prospective student athletes and
 17 the parents or guardians of student athletes or prospective
 18 student athletes with educational materials relating to this
 19 title.

20 **SEC. 102. MODIFICATIONS TO SPORTS AGENT RESPONSIBI-**
 21 **BILITY AND TRUST ACT.**

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

24 (1) in section 2 (15 U.S.C. 7801)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “an oral
2 or written agreement” and inserting “a written
3 agreement”;

4 (B) in paragraph (5), by inserting before
5 the period the following: “and includes any
6 name, image, and likeness agreement as defined
7 in section 100 of the Protect College Sports Act
8 of 2026”;

9 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (6)
10 through (9) as paragraphs (7) through (10), re-
11 spectively; and

12 (D) by inserting after paragraph (5) the
13 following:

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

18 (2) in section 3 (15 U.S.C. 7802)—

19 (A) in subsection (a)—

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

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

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
 2 lowing:

3 “(4) enter into an agency contract or represent
 4 a student athlete in a manner that violates section
 5 9;

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

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

13 “(7) make any materially false, deceptive, or
 14 fraudulent representation as an athlete agent, in-
 15 cluding any materially false, deceptive, or fraudulent
 16 statement to a student athlete or prospective student
 17 athlete that misrepresents the existence, nature, or
 18 value of a name, image, or likeness opportunity the
 19 athlete agent can arrange on behalf of the student
 20 athlete or prospective student athlete through re-
 21 cruitment or transfer to an institution (as defined in
 22 section 100 of the Protect College Sports Act of
 23 2026); or

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

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

10 (3) by inserting after section 5 (15 U.S.C.
 11 7804) the following:

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

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

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

21 “(1) a declaratory judgment that a name,
 22 image, or likeness agreement (as defined in section
 23 100 of the Protect College Sports Act of 2026) or
 24 an agency contract, as applicable, is null and void;
 25 and

1 “(2) actual damages.

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(A) PRE-DISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREE-
 24 MENT.—The term ‘pre-dispute arbitration
 25 agreement’ means any agreement to arbitrate a

1 dispute that has not arisen at the time of the
2 making of the agreement.

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

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

14 **“SEC. 9. REGISTRATION OF ATHLETE AGENTS AND OTHER**
15 **REQUIREMENTS.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An athlete agent who seeks to
17 represent a student athlete in an endorsement contract
18 shall—

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

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

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

4 “(1) a registered professional sports agent with
 5 a professional sports league or players association, in
 6 good standing; or

7 “(2) registered and certified under the All State
 8 Uniform Agent Acts in the State in which the agent
 9 operates, in good standing.

10 “(c) CERTIFICATION TO INTERCOLLEGIATE ATH-
 11 LETIC ASSOCIATIONS.—

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

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

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

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

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

1 “(3) state the registration information for the
2 athlete agent; and

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

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

6 “An endorsement contract made in interstate or for-
7 eign commerce is, at the option of the student athlete, void
8 from the inception of such contract if such contract does
9 not satisfy the following requirements:

10 “(1) The contract is in writing.

11 “(2) The contract plainly states that the stu-
12 dent athlete has the right to obtain or retain an ath-
13 lete agent or legal representation with respect to the
14 contract.

15 “(3) The contract contains—

16 “(A) a description of services rendered;

17 “(B) the names of each party to the con-
18 tract;

19 “(C) the terms of the contract;

20 “(D) the amount of compensation to be
21 provided to the student athlete under the con-
22 tract;

23 “(E) a provision specifying the cir-
24 cumstance or event that would result in the ter-
25 mination of the contract due to nonperformance

1 of obligations by the student athlete or other
 2 parties to the contract; and

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

16 “(4) The contract is not for a term that ex-
 17 tends beyond the eligibility of the student athlete to
 18 participate in intercollegiate sports.”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents
 20 for the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act is
 21 amended—

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

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

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

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

“Sec. 10. Endorsement contract requirements.”.

1 **SEC. 103. AGENT REGISTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTER-**
 2 **COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS.**

3 (a) REQUIREMENTS OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATH-
 4 LETIC ASSOCIATIONS.—An intercollegiate athletic associa-
 5 tion shall maintain a publicly available website that in-
 6 cludes a searchable database of athlete agents that—

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

10 (2) have certified compliance with all rules and
 11 bylaws of such intercollegiate athletic association, in-
 12 cluding any recruitment and tampering rules adopt-
 13 ed under section 117.

14 (b) DECERTIFICATION PERMITTED.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic
 16 association may decertify or fine an athlete agent for
 17 any violations of section 9 of the Sports Agent Re-
 18 sponsibility and Trust Act, as added by section 102,
 19 or any violation of section 117 on recruitment and
 20 tampering.

21 (2) EFFECT OF DECERTIFICATION.—An athlete
 22 agent that is decertified pursuant to paragraph (1)
 23 may not represent or contact a student athlete or

1 prospective student athlete of an institution that is
 2 a member of such intercollegiate athletic association.

3 **SEC. 104. DISCLOSURES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NAME,**
 4 **IMAGE, AND LIKENESS AGREEMENT DATA-**
 5 **BASE.**

6 (a) DISCLOSURES BY INSTITUTIONS.—

7 (1) DISCLOSURE OF DATA ON NAME, IMAGE,
 8 AND LIKENESS AGREEMENTS.—Not later than July
 9 1 of the first year beginning after the date of the
 10 enactment of this Act, and each July 1 thereafter,
 11 each institution shall disclose to the intercollegiate
 12 athletic association of which the institution is a
 13 member, in an anonymized manner, the following
 14 data:

15 (A) With respect to each name, image, and
 16 likeness agreement disclosed to the institution
 17 by a student athlete as required by section
 18 101(b)—

19 (i) a description of services rendered;
 20 and

21 (ii) the amount of compensation to be
 22 provided to the student athlete or group of
 23 athletes under the agreement.

24 (B) With respect to each name, image, and
 25 likeness agreement entered into between the in-

stitution and a student athlete, and any other compensation provided or to be provided by an institution to a student athlete—

(i) the amount of compensation provided or to be provided to the student athlete by the institution; and

(ii) disaggregated by intercollegiate sports program—

(I) the number of agreements and payments;

(II) the average value of the agreements and payments; and

(III) the total value of the agreements and payments.

(2) REPORT ON REVENUE AND STUDENT OUTCOMES.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which an academic year ends, each institution with 1 or more intercollegiate sports programs shall submit to the governing athletic association for such institution a report that includes, for the academic year, the following:

(A) The amount of revenues and expenditures of each such sports program, including the amount of associated entity and third-party donations, Federal funds, and State funds, in-

1 cluding the total amount of remuneration for
 2 personnel of each intercollegiate sports pro-
 3 gram, individually by program and in the ag-
 4 gregate.

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

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

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

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

23 (b) DISCLOSURES BY ASSOCIATIONS AND DATA-
 24 BASE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September of
 2 the first year beginning after the date of the enact-
 3 ment of this Act, each intercollegiate athletic asso-
 4 ciation shall establish and maintain a publicly acces-
 5 sible, searchable database for student athletes and
 6 their agents to estimate the fair market value for
 7 name, image, and likeness agreements, which shall
 8 include data collected under subsection (a)(2).

9 (2) CONTENT OF DATABASE.—An intercolle-
 10 giate athletic association shall include the data re-
 11 ported by institutions pursuant to paragraphs (1)
 12 and (2) of subsection (a) in the database described
 13 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 (c) LIMITATION.—This section shall apply only to in-
 23 stitutions whose primary membership is in Division I, as
 24 defined by bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic
 25 Association, or a successor bylaw, and shall not apply to

1 any Division II or Division III institution (as so defined)
 2 that participates in a limited number of sports at the Divi-
 3 sion I level.

4 **SEC. 105. ACADEMIC PROTECTIONS.**

5 (a) PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO COURSEWORK AND
 6 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.—

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

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

12 (B) retaliate against a student athlete
 13 based on the student athlete's selection of any
 14 course or academic major; or

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

23 (2) PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETIC RELATED AC-
 24 TIVITIES.—In order to ensure each student athlete
 25 makes satisfactory progress toward the completion

1 of a degree, each intercollegiate athletic association
 2 and any institution that is a member of such asso-
 3 ciation may limit a student athlete to only partici-
 4 pate in countable athletic-related activities as part of
 5 the educational, developmental, or extracurricular
 6 programs of the institution.

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

11 (A) informing a student athlete of aca-
 12 demic eligibility requirements and mandatory
 13 and expected team activities; or

14 (B) providing other legitimate academic
 15 counseling and support services, in collaboration
 16 with the institution, to help the student athlete
 17 pursue the academic interests of and improve
 18 academic outcomes for the student athlete.

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

24 (c) SCHOLARSHIP PROTECTIONS.—

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

5 (A) based on the athletic ability or per-
 6 formance of the student athlete or the contribu-
 7 tion of the student athlete to the success of a
 8 varsity sports team;

9 (B) as a result of an injury or illness based
 10 on a physical or mental medical condition of the
 11 student athlete; or

12 (C) roster management decisions.

13 (2) EXCEPTION.—

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

17 (i) transfers to another institution; or

18 (ii) does not remain in good standing

19 in accordance with—

20 (I) the standards or code of con-
 21 duct of the institution applicable to all
 22 students;

23 (II) the established athletics pro-
 24 gram policies for participating in

1 mandatory team athletic activities for
 2 a varsity sports team; or

3 (III) the academic standards for
 4 athletic eligibility.

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

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

18 (D) FORMER STUDENT ATHLETES.—

19 (i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a
 20 former student athlete described in clause
 21 (ii), an institution shall provide the former
 22 student athlete—

23 (I) the opportunity to resume
 24 study at the institution for the pur-

pose of completing the requirements
necessary to earn a degree; and

(II) either—

(aa) the amount of grant-in-
aid the former student athlete re-
ceived while previously enrolled
at the institution and partici-
pating—

(AA) in intercollegiate
athletic competition; or

(BB) as a member of a
varsity sports team; or

(bb) in the case of grant-in-
aid previously awarded solely on
the basis of demonstrated finan-
cial need, grant-in-aid awarded
based on the current dem-
onstrated financial need of the
former student athlete.

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

(I) was enrolled at the institution
during their last year of eligibility to

1 participate in intercollegiate athletic
 2 competition during the preceding 10-
 3 year period;

4 (II) received grant-in-aid while
 5 enrolled at the institution;

6 (III) was not subject to the rev-
 7 ocation of grant-in-aid under subpara-
 8 graph (A)(ii)(I); and

9 (IV) has not completed the
 10 course of study for an undergraduate
 11 degree.

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

14 (i) an institution from providing addi-
 15 tional grant-in-aid protections for student
 16 athletes or former student athletes; or

17 (ii) an intercollegiate athletic associa-
 18 tion, conference, institution, student ath-
 19 lete, or former student athlete from re-
 20 questing or advocating for additional
 21 grant-in-aid protections.

22 (3) LIMITATION.—Paragraph (2)(D) shall apply
 23 only to institutions that compete in Division I, as
 24 defined by bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate
 25 Athletic Association, or a successor bylaw.

1 **SEC. 106. MEDICAL COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each Division I institution, as de-
 3 fined by bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic As-
 4 sociation, or a successor bylaw, each institution whose pri-
 5 mary membership is in Division II or Division III (as so
 6 defined) only with respect to student athletes of the insti-
 7 tution who compete in Division I, or an intercollegiate ath-
 8 letic association or conference comprised of Division I
 9 member institutions shall provide or cause to be pro-
 10 vided—

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

13 (A) all out-of-pocket medical expenses,
 14 such as copayments or deductibles, for the
 15 health care coverage of a student athlete for
 16 any injury or disease incurred through partici-
 17 pation in an intercollegiate sport;

18 (B) the expense for obtaining a medical
 19 second opinion independent of the institution
 20 for any injury or disease the student athlete in-
 21 curred through participation in an intercolle-
 22 giate sport;

23 (C) catastrophic injury medical insurance
 24 for any injury or disease incurred through par-
 25 ticipation in an intercollegiate sport that ex-
 26 ceeds \$90,000 in medical costs; and

1 (D) an end-of-college physical examination
 2 for a student athlete for the purpose of docu-
 3 menting and diagnosing any injury or condition
 4 related to the student athlete's participation in
 5 an intercollegiate sport; and

6 (2) with respect to a student athlete enrolled at
 7 the institution during their last year of eligibility to
 8 participate in intercollegiate athletic competition, for
 9 the 5-year period beginning on the day after the last
 10 intercollegiate competition for the student athlete,
 11 the cost of all out-of-pocket medical expenses of the
 12 student athlete for health care coverage for any in-
 13 jury or disease incurred through participation in an
 14 intercollegiate sport.

15 (b) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
 16 POST-ELIGIBILITY INSURANCE AND CATASTROPHIC IN-
 17 JURY FUND OR PROGRAM.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic
 19 association comprised of member institutions that
 20 compete in Division I, Division II, or Division III,
 21 as defined by bylaw 20 of the National Collegiate
 22 Athletic Association, or a successor bylaw, on behalf
 23 of its member institutions must establish a fund or
 24 program to help cover the cost of—

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

(B) post-eligibility medical expenses for the student athletes of a member institution who are diagnosed with significant long-term conditions related to their participation in an intercollegiate sport, including chronic traumatic encephalopathy and any other cognitive impairment.

(2) AMOUNT OF FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to increases under subparagraph (B) and the limitation under subparagraph (C), the intercollegiate athletic association described in this subsection shall ensure that the fund or program established under this subsection is funded at an amount that totals not less than \$60,000,000 on the first day of each academic year.

1 (B) SUBSEQUENT INCREASE.—Subject to
 2 the limitation under subparagraph (C), if the
 3 amount funded for the fund or program estab-
 4 lished under this subsection is depleted for an
 5 academic year, that amount for the next aca-
 6 demic year shall be increased by \$5,000,000 as
 7 compared to the amount for the previous aca-
 8 demic year.

9 (C) LIMITATION.—The amount funded for
 10 the fund or program established under this sub-
 11 section shall not exceed \$100,000,000.

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

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

21 (1) an intercollegiate athletic association, con-
 22 ference, or institution from providing or causing to
 23 be provided to student athletes medical coverage in
 24 addition to the medical coverage required by sub-
 25 section (a); or

1 (2) an intercollegiate athletic association from
 2 exceeding \$60,000,000 for the fund or program es-
 3 tablished in subsection (b) for any academic year.

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

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

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

16 (2) heat-related illness, by adhering to the
 17 American College of Sports Medicine Expert Con-
 18 sensus Statement on Exertional Heat Illness: Rec-
 19 ognition, Management, and Return to Activity (April
 20 2023), and as amended to strengthen protections for
 21 student athletes;

22 (3) rhabdomyolysis, in accordance with the
 23 guidelines of the National Collegiate Athletic Asso-
 24 ciation for exertional rhabdomyolysis published in

1 2025, and as amended to strengthen protections for
2 student athletes; and

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

5 (A) sickle cell trait, by following the guide-
6 lines published by the National Collegiate Ath-
7 letic Association in 2025, and as amended to
8 strengthen protections for student athletes; and

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

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

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

20 (2) sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sex-
21 ual harassment.

22 (c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON CONTACT FOR
23 STUDENT ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN.—

24 (1) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-
25 TION.—An intercollegiate athletic association shall

1 provide to student athletes information on how to
 2 contact the Office of the Student Athlete Ombuds-
 3 man, as established in section 108, on the internet
 4 website of the association.

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

12 (d) ATHLETIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICERS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each institution shall des-
 14 ignate an employee, who is independent of the ath-
 15 letic department, as the athletic health and safety
 16 officer for the institution.

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

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

1 (A) overseeing implementation of the appli-
 2 cable requirements the institution is subject to
 3 under this section, including any applicable
 4 training, oversight practices, policies, and pro-
 5 cedures; and

6 (B) consulting with student athletes and
 7 athletic department personnel and reporting
 8 any suspected violations of this section to the
 9 employee specified under paragraph (2).

10 (e) INDEPENDENCE OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.—

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

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

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

1 (1) an intercollegiate athletic association, con-
 2 ference, institution, or State from establishing addi-
 3 tional health, wellness, and safety standards to pro-
 4 tect student athletes, including additional sexual as-
 5 sault, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment
 6 standards in addition to those specified in subsection
 7 (b); or

8 (2) an intercollegiate athletic association, con-
 9 ference, institution, or student athletes from request-
 10 ing or advocating for additional health, wellness, and
 11 safety standards to protect student athletes.

12 (g) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
 13 OVERSIGHT.—An intercollegiate athletic association shall
 14 take reasonable actions to ensure that its member institu-
 15 tions comply with this section.

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

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

21 (b) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

22 (1) provide independent advice to student ath-
 23 letes at no cost about the applicable requirements of
 24 this title and the amendments made by this title, in-

1 including with respect to their rights and responsibil-
 2 ities and the resources available;

3 (2) assist in the resolution of student athlete
 4 concerns regarding the intercollegiate athletic asso-
 5 ciation, conferences, or institutions;

6 (3) provide independent advice to student ath-
 7 letes with respect to the role, responsibility, author-
 8 ity, and jurisdiction of the intercollegiate athletic as-
 9 sociation, conferences, or institutions;

10 (4) provide student athletes with current con-
 11 tact information for external third-party resources
 12 for student athletes;

13 (5) provide independent advice to student ath-
 14 letes with respect to the relative value of engaging
 15 legal counsel;

16 (6) develop standard language to explain the
 17 rights and responsibilities of student athletes under
 18 this Act that institutions shall be required to con-
 19 spicuously display in common areas where student
 20 athletes congregate, such as locker rooms, dor-
 21 mitories, or study areas, to ensure that student ath-
 22 letes are properly informed of their rights, respon-
 23 sibilities, and ability to contact the Ombudsman; and

24 (7) as appropriate, develop curricula to educate
 25 student athletes on their rights and responsibilities

1 under this Act that is capable of being shared
2 through in person or online classes, training ses-
3 sions, or other means.

4 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—An intercollegiate athletic as-
5 sociation shall hire and provide salary, benefits, and ad-
6 ministrative expenses for an Ombudsman and support
7 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, publicity and pro-
 17 motion, and, if applicable, athletic facilities for champion-
 18 ship events or tournaments, across similarly situated
 19 men's and women's athletic programs.

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 four-year
 19 institution to another four-year 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 institution; 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 Division I or Division II (as defined by bylaw
16 20 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, or a
17 successor bylaw) varsity sports team or in intercollegiate
18 athletic competition for a Division I or Division II institu-
19 tion (as defined by bylaw 20 of the National Collegiate
20 Athletic Association, or a successor bylaw) if the indi-
21 vidual—

22 (1) is a student athlete;

23 (2) meets uniform academic standards estab-
24 lished by the relevant intercollegiate athletic associa-
25 tion, conference, or institution;

1 (3) is not a professional athlete; and

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

4 (b) YEARS OF ELIGIBILITY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a
6 student athlete is eligible to compete in intercolle-
7 giate athletic competition for a Division I or Division
8 II institution (as defined by bylaw 20 of the Na-
9 tional Collegiate Athletic Association, or a successor
10 bylaw) for a maximum of 5 calendar years beginning
11 on, whichever occurs first—

12 (A) the beginning of the academic year fol-
13 lowing the 19th birthday of the student athlete;
14 or

15 (B) the date the student athlete initially
16 enrolls full time at an institution.

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

20 (A) Reasons of pregnancy.

21 (B) Religious mission.

22 (C) Active-duty military service.

23 (D) Other periods of absence, which may
24 include serious athletic injury or medical condi-
25 tion, adopted by rule or bylaw by an intercolle-

1 giate athletic association that apply uniformly
2 to all student athletes.

3 (c) RESTRICTIONS ON ELIGIBILITY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic
5 association or a conference may restrict the eligi-
6 bility of a student athlete to participate in intercolle-
7 giate sports if the student athlete—

8 (A) used an illegal or performance enhanc-
9 ing drug; or

10 (B) participated in sports wagering activi-
11 ties or sports-related event contracts.

12 (2) CODE OF CONDUCT.—An institution may
13 restrict the eligibility of a student athlete to partici-
14 pate in intercollegiate sports if the student athlete
15 violated the code of conduct of the institution that
16 applies to all students.

17 (d) CLARIFICATION ON YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND
18 PRIZE MONEY.—For purposes of subsection (a)(3)—

19 (1) a student athlete who competes in basket-
20 ball shall not be considered a professional athlete
21 based on their participation in athletic competitions
22 prior to, whichever occurs first—

23 (A) the 19th birthday of the student ath-
24 lete; or

1 (B) the date the student athlete initially
 2 enrolls full time at an institution; and

3 (2) a student athlete who competes in a sport
 4 other than football or basketball shall not be consid-
 5 ered a professional athlete based solely on the
 6 amount of prize money the student athlete received
 7 based on place finish or performance in an athletic
 8 event before or after enrollment in an institution, so
 9 long as—

10 (A) the prize money was provided only by
 11 the sponsor of the athletics event; and

12 (B) the sponsor of the athletics event is
 13 not an institution, employee of an institution,
 14 volunteer of an institution, collective, or an as-
 15 sociated entity.

16 (e) TRANSFER FROM 2-YEAR INSTITUTION.—No
 17 intercollegiate athletic association or conference shall re-
 18 quire a student athlete who transfers from a 2-year insti-
 19 tution to a 4-year institution to meet additional or more
 20 stringent academic standards than the academic stand-
 21 ards required for student athletes who transfer from a 4-
 22 year institution.

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

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

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

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

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

14 (a) CERTAIN AGREEMENTS AND COMPENSATION
 15 PROHIBITED.—

16 (1) PROHIBITION.—An institution, an employee
 17 of an institution, a volunteer of an institution, a con-
 18 ference, an employee of a conference, or an associ-
 19 ated entity shall not—

20 (A) except as provided in paragraph (2)
 21 and subsection (b), arrange, provide, offer, or
 22 permit, directly or indirectly, compensation in
 23 an amount that would circumvent or result in
 24 the institution exceeding the revenue share cap
 25 to—

1 (i) a student athlete, a group of stu-
 2 dent athletes, or their family members; or

3 (ii) a prospective student athlete, a
 4 group of prospective student athletes, or
 5 their family members;

6 (B) except for a name, image, and likeness
 7 agreement between a student athlete and an in-
 8 stitution or between a prospective student ath-
 9 lete and an institution, enter into a name,
 10 image, and likeness agreement with a student
 11 athlete or prospective student athlete that is
 12 not—

13 (i) for a valid business purpose; and

14 (ii) commensurate with compensation
 15 paid by third parties to individuals with a
 16 similar profile, reputation, or notability
 17 who are not student athletes or prospective
 18 student athletes at the institution; or

19 (C) provide compensation for any purpose
 20 to a prospective student athlete prior to enroll-
 21 ment in an institution, but nothing in this sub-
 22 paragraph shall prohibit an institution from
 23 providing compensation to attend a development
 24 camp or program if that camp or program is
 25 open to non-prospective student athletes and

such compensation does not exceed the reasonable costs of attendance.

(2) RETENTION FUND.—

(A) RETENTION FUND EXCEPTION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an institution may exceed the revenue share cap by not more than \$22,500,000 per academic year for the purpose of retaining a student athlete or group of student athletes who have spent at least one full competitive season at the institution.

(B) NON-REVENUE GENERATING INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS PROGRAMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An institution may further exceed the revenue share cap for the purpose described in subparagraph (A) by up to an additional \$5,000,000 per academic year in proportion to the amount of name, image, and likeness compensation provided by the institution through the revenue share cap described in subsection (a)(1) and the retention fund amount described in subparagraph (A) to a student athlete or group of student athletes competing in non-revenue generating intercolle-

1 giate sports programs, including women's
2 and Olympic intercollegiate sports pro-
3 grams.

4 (ii) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in
5 clause (i) shall be interpreted to preclude
6 an institution from providing name, image,
7 and likeness compensation through the rev-
8 enue share cap described in subsection
9 (a)(1) and the retention fund amount de-
10 scribed in subparagraph (A) in excess of
11 \$5,000,000 to a student athlete or group
12 of student athletes competing in non-rev-
13 enue generating intercollegiate sports pro-
14 grams, including women's and Olympic
15 intercollegiate sports programs, provided
16 such compensation complies with subpara-
17 graph (A) and subsection (a)(1).

18 (C) TIME LIMITATION.—The exception de-
19 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall apply only
20 during the nine-year period beginning on the
21 date of the enactment of this Act.

22 (D) ACADEMIC SUCCESS LIMITATION.—An
23 institution shall not be eligible for the exception
24 described in subparagraph (A) if the institution
25 fails to meet uniform benchmarks established

1 by the relevant intercollegiate athletic associa-
2 tion or conference related to graduation rates
3 and the academic progress of its student ath-
4 letes participating in a varsity sports program.

5 (b) PERSONAL ATHLETIC AND EDUCATION BENE-
6 FITS PERMITTED.—An intercollegiate athletic association,
7 a conference, an institution, or any representative thereof
8 shall not, pursuant to the Injunctive Relief Settlement
9 Agreement approved by the court in “In Re College Ath-
10 lete NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June
11 6, 2025), restrict the ability of a student athlete enrolled
12 at an institution to receive compensation from an inter-
13 collegiate athletic association, an institution, a conference,
14 or an associated entity, for personal benefits related to
15 education or intercollegiate athletics, if those benefits
16 are—

17 (1) reasonable costs of transportation and tem-
18 porary lodging for family members of a student ath-
19 lete while the student athlete is experiencing a docu-
20 mented physical or mental health concern or partici-
21 pating in an intercollegiate athletic competition;

22 (2) reasonable costs for meals, shelter, medical
23 coverage, and medical expenses not provided or cov-
24 ered by the institution; or

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

5 (c) MULTIMEDIA RIGHTS HOLDERS, SPONSORS, AP-
 6 PAREL COMPANIES, AND VENDORS.—In the case of a
 7 name, image, and likeness agreement involving, or bro-
 8 kered by, a multimedia rights holder, or a sponsor of the
 9 institution in which the student athlete is enrolled or plans
 10 to enroll that has a commercial relationship with the insti-
 11 tution, an apparel company that has a commercial rela-
 12 tionship with the institution, or a vendor for the athletic
 13 department or athletic facilities that has a commercial re-
 14 lationship with the institution—

15 (1) the multimedia rights holder shall provide a
 16 signed certification to the intercollegiate athletic as-
 17 sociation or its designated enforcement entity af-
 18 firming that the institution in which the student
 19 athlete is enrolled or plans to enroll is not the origi-
 20 nating source of the compensation to be paid to the
 21 student athlete or prospective student athlete and
 22 that payment of the compensation is not coming di-
 23 rectly or indirectly from the institution;

24 (2) the third party or the sponsor, apparel com-
 25 pany, or vendor benefitting from the name, image,

1 and likeness of the student athlete or prospective
2 student athlete shall provide a signed certification to
3 the intercollegiate athletic association or its des-
4 ignated enforcement entity affirming that it is the
5 originating source of the compensation to be paid to
6 the student athlete, that it did not receive funds, di-
7 rectly or indirectly, from the institution in which the
8 student athlete is enrolled or plans to enroll for the
9 purpose of financing the agreement, that the institu-
10 tion did not forgo funds due from the third party or
11 the sponsor, apparel company, or vendor for the pur-
12 pose of financing the agreement, and that the insti-
13 tution did not negotiate for and determine the
14 amount of compensation to be paid to the student
15 athlete or prospective student athlete through the
16 agreement; and

17 (3) the institution at which the student athlete
18 is enrolled or plans to enroll, if required by the
19 intercollegiate athletic association or its designated
20 enforcement entity, shall provide a signed certifi-
21 cation to the intercollegiate athletic association or its
22 designated enforcement entity that the institution is
23 not circumventing the revenue share cap through the
24 name, image, and likeness agreement, or negotiating
25 for and determining the amount of compensation to

1 be paid to the student athlete or prospective student
2 athlete through the agreement.

3 (d) VALID BUSINESS PURPOSE.—Except for a name,
4 image, and likeness agreement with an institution, a
5 name, image, and likeness agreement with a student ath-
6 lete shall be for a valid business purpose.

7 (e) PAYMENTS TO COACHES AND MANAGERS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—An institution described in
9 paragraph (2) may not compensate or otherwise pro-
10 vide or promise any type of payment or benefit of
11 more than \$500,000 to any coach, assistant coach,
12 general manager, or other person who coaches or
13 manages a varsity sports team by using, diverting,
14 budgeting, or otherwise obtaining funds from any
15 source other than college sports revenue or a dona-
16 tion or contribution to the athletic department of the
17 institution.

18 (2) INSTITUTION DESCRIBED.—An institution
19 described in this paragraph is an institution with
20 more than \$80,000,000 in total annual athletics rev-
21 enue during the preceding academic year.

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

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

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

**SEC. 115. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF CONTINUATION
OF REVENUE SHARE CAP AND RETENTION
FUND.**

(a) CONTINUATION UPON CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.—

(1) CESSATION ABSENT APPROVAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), if the covered settlement agreement expires or terminates but no joint resolution of approval relating to the notice of the expiration or termination is enacted into law during the applicable congressional approval period, the provisions of section 114 relating to the revenue share cap, and, notwithstanding section 114(a)(2)(C), the retention fund, shall—

(A) in the case of an expiration—

(i) cease to have force or effect on the date of such expiration, if the applicable

1 congressional approval period ends before
2 that date; or

3 (ii) if the applicable congressional ap-
4 proval period ends after the date of such
5 expiration, at the end of the applicable
6 congressional approval period; or

7 (B) in the case of a termination, remain in
8 effect without interruption notwithstanding
9 such termination until, and cease to have force
10 or effect at, the end of the applicable congres-
11 sional approval period.

12 (2) CONTINUATION UPON APPROVAL.—If a
13 joint resolution of approval relating to the notice of
14 the expiration or termination is enacted into law, the
15 provisions of section 114 relating to the revenue
16 share cap and, only if specified in the joint resolu-
17 tion of approval, the retention fund, in effect imme-
18 diately before such expiration or termination or at
19 the time the notice is provided to Congress pursuant
20 to subsection (b), subject to paragraph (3), shall
21 continue in effect without interruption beginning on
22 the date of such expiration or termination.

23 (3) RECALCULATION OF REVENUE SHARE CAP
24 DOLLAR AMOUNT.—In the first 2 years following a
25 continuation under paragraph (2), the revenue share

1 cap shall increase by 4 percent each year over the
2 previous year's amount. In the third year following
3 a continuation under paragraph (2), and every 3
4 years thereafter, the revenue share cap shall be re-
5 calculated based on 22 percent of the Average
6 Shared Revenue based on the most recent Member-
7 ship Financial Reporting System Reports available,
8 or, if the covered settlement agreement is modified,
9 pursuant to the amendment provision specified in
10 paragraph 55 of that settlement, pursuant to the
11 calculation process in effect immediately before the
12 expiration or termination of the covered settlement
13 agreement or at the time the notice is provided to
14 Congress pursuant to subsection (b). In each of the
15 2 years following each such recalculation, the rev-
16 enue share cap shall increase by 4 percent each year
17 over the previous year's amount. For purposes of
18 this paragraph, all information used to calculate the
19 revenue share cap pursuant to the covered settle-
20 ment agreement, or as modified pursuant to the
21 amendment provision specified in paragraph 55 of
22 that settlement, shall be subject to a publicly avail-
23 able, independent third-party audit to verify the ac-
24 curacy of such information for purposes of com-
25 plying with this subsection.

1 (b) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—

2 (1) SCHEDULED EXPIRATION.—Not later than
3 180 calendar days before the date on which the cov-
4 ered settlement agreement is scheduled to expire, the
5 defendant parties, or in the case of disagreement, a
6 majority of defendant parties, to the covered settle-
7 ment agreement shall transmit to the President pro
8 tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
9 of Representatives a written notice of the scheduled
10 expiration. If the scheduled expiration date is estab-
11 lished less than 180 calendar days before that date,
12 any defendant party to the covered settlement agree-
13 ment shall transmit the notice not later than 1 cal-
14 endar day after the scheduled expiration date is es-
15 tablished.

16 (2) EARLY TERMINATION.—Not later than 1
17 calendar day after the date on which the defendant
18 parties to the covered settlement become aware of a
19 court order that provides for the termination of the
20 covered settlement agreement before its scheduled
21 expiration, any defendant party to the covered settle-
22 ment agreement shall transmit to the President pro
23 tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
24 of Representatives a written notice of the termi-
25 nation.

1 (3) CONTENTS.—A notice under this subsection
2 shall include—

3 (A) the scheduled, expected, or actual date
4 of the expiration or termination, if known, and
5 the basis for the expiration or termination; and

6 (B) the dollar amounts and material terms
7 of the revenue share cap in effect, or expected
8 to be in effect, immediately before the expira-
9 tion or termination.

10 (4) DATE OF RECEIPT.—Congress receives a
11 notice under this subsection on the date on which
12 both the President pro tempore of the Senate and
13 the Speaker of the House of Representatives receive
14 the notice. In the event a notice is not provided to
15 Congress under this subsection, notice shall be
16 deemed to have been received by Congress not later
17 than 3 calendar days after the date of the expiration
18 or termination of the covered settlement agreement.

19 (5) DEEMED RECEIPT.—Notwithstanding para-
20 graph (4), for purposes of this section, a notice re-
21 quired under this subsection received after the expi-
22 ration or termination of the covered settlement
23 agreement shall be deemed to have been received by
24 Congress on the date on which covered settlement
25 agreement expired or terminated.

1 (c) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—

2 (1) APPLICABLE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL
3 PERIOD.—With respect to a notice under subsection
4 (b), the term “applicable congressional approval pe-
5 riod” means the 30-calendar-day period beginning
6 on the date on which Congress receives the notice,
7 except that the congressional approval period shall
8 immediately terminate upon the passage a of a joint
9 resolution of approval by the Senate and the House
10 of Representatives.

11 (2) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—For
12 purposes of this section, the term “joint resolution
13 of approval” means only any joint resolution—

14 (A) that is introduced not later than 10
15 calendar days after the date on which Congress
16 receives the notice under subsection (b) to
17 which the joint resolution relates;

18 (B) that does not have a preamble;

19 (C) the title of which is either of the fol-
20 lowing:

21 (i) “Joint resolution approving the
22 continuation of the revenue share cap and
23 retention fund under the Protect College
24 Sports Act of 2026”; or

1 (ii) “Joint resolution approving the
2 continuation of the revenue share cap
3 under the Protect College Sports Act of
4 2026”; and

5 (D) the sole matter after the resolving
6 clause of which is either of the following:

7 (i) for a joint resolution with a title
8 described in subparagraph (C)(i): “That
9 Congress approves, under section 115 of
10 the Protect College Sports Act of 2026,
11 the continuation, after the expiration or
12 termination described in the notice received
13 by Congress on _____ ,
14 of the revenue share cap and retention
15 fund in effect immediately before such ex-
16 piration or termination or at the time the
17 notice was provided to Congress pursuant
18 to subsection (b) of that section, and of the
19 provisions of section 114 of such Act relat-
20 ing to that cap and fund.”; or

21 (ii) for a joint resolution with a title
22 described in subparagraph (C)(ii): “That
23 Congress approves, under section 115 of
24 the Protect College Sports Act of 2026,
25 the continuation, after the expiration or

1 termination described in the notice received
 2 by Congress on _____ ,
 3 of the revenue share cap in effect imme-
 4 diately before such expiration or termi-
 5 nation or at the time the notice was pro-
 6 vided to Congress pursuant to subsection
 7 (b) of that section, and of the provisions of
 8 section 114 of such Act relating to that
 9 cap.”.

10 (3) DATE IN RESOLVING TEXT.—The date in-
 11 serted in the blank in paragraph (2)(D)(i) or
 12 (2)(D)(ii) shall be the date on which Congress re-
 13 ceives the notice under subsection (b) to which the
 14 joint resolution relates.

15 (4) INTRODUCTION.—A joint resolution of ap-
 16 proval may be introduced in either House of Con-
 17 gress by any Member of that House.

18 (d) FAST TRACK CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REP-
 19 RESENTATIVES.—

20 (1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a notice
 21 under subsection (b), the Speaker of the House of
 22 Representatives, if the House would otherwise be ad-
 23 journed, shall notify the Members of the House that,
 24 pursuant to this section, the House shall convene

1 not later than the second calendar day after receipt
2 of the notice.

3 (2) REFERRAL, REPORTING, AND DISCHARGE.—

4 A joint resolution of approval introduced in the
5 House of Representatives shall be referred to the
6 Committee on Energy and Commerce. The com-
7 mittee shall report the joint resolution to the House
8 not later than 10 calendar days after the date on
9 which Congress receives the notice under subsection
10 (b) to which the joint resolution relates. If the com-
11 mittee fails to report the joint resolution within that
12 period, the committee shall be discharged from fur-
13 ther consideration of the joint resolution and the
14 joint resolution shall be referred to the appropriate
15 calendar.

16 (3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After
17 the committee referred to in paragraph (2) reports
18 a joint resolution of approval to the House or is dis-
19 charged from its consideration, it shall be in order,
20 not later than the 16th day after the date on which
21 Congress receives the notice under subsection (b) to
22 which the joint resolution relates, to move to proceed
23 to consider the joint resolution in the House. All
24 points of order against the motion are waived. Such
25 a motion shall not be in order after the House has

1 disposed of a motion to proceed on the joint resolu-
 2 tion. The previous question shall be considered as
 3 ordered on the motion to its adoption without inter-
 4 vening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A
 5 motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion
 6 is disposed of shall not be in order.

7 (4) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolution
 8 shall be considered as read. All points of order
 9 against the joint resolution and against its consider-
 10 ation are waived. The previous question shall be con-
 11 sidered as ordered on the joint resolution to its pas-
 12 sage without intervening motion except 2 hours of
 13 debate equally divided and controlled by the pro-
 14 ponent and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the
 15 vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be
 16 in order.

17 (e) FAST TRACK CONSIDERATION IN SENATE.—

18 (1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a notice
 19 under subsection (b), if the Senate has adjourned or
 20 recessed for more than 2 days, the majority leader
 21 of the Senate, after consultation with the minority
 22 leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the
 23 Senate that, pursuant to this section, the Senate
 24 shall convene not later than the fifteenth calendar
 25 day after receipt of the notice.

1 (2) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon intro-
2 duction in the Senate, a joint resolution of approval
3 shall be placed immediately on the calendar.

4 (3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—It is in order at any
6 time during the period beginning on the 10th
7 day after the date on which Congress receives
8 the notice under subsection (b) to which the
9 joint resolution relates to move to proceed to
10 the consideration of the joint resolution. The
11 motion to proceed is privileged and not debat-
12 able. All points of order against the joint reso-
13 lution and against consideration of the joint
14 resolution are waived. The motion is not subject
15 to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider
16 the vote by which the motion is agreed to or
17 disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion
18 to proceed to the consideration of the joint reso-
19 lution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall re-
20 main the unfinished business until disposed of.

21 (B) DEBATE.—Except as otherwise pro-
22 vided in this paragraph, the joint resolution
23 shall be debatable and shall be subject to rule
24 XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate. If
25 cloture is invoked on the joint resolution, post-

1 cloture consideration of the joint resolution
 2 shall be limited to not more than 10 hours,
 3 which shall be divided equally between the ma-
 4 jority and minority leaders or their designees.
 5 After cloture is invoked, a motion further to
 6 limit debate is in order and not debatable. An
 7 amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a
 8 motion to proceed to the consideration of other
 9 business, or a motion to recommit, the joint
 10 resolution is not in order.

11 (C) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—After cloture is
 12 invoked on the joint resolution, the vote on pas-
 13 sage shall occur immediately following the con-
 14 clusion of the period of post-cloture consider-
 15 ation under subparagraph (B) and, if requested
 16 in accordance with the rules of the Senate, a
 17 single quorum call.

18 (D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCE-
 19 DURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair
 20 relating to the application of the rules of the
 21 Senate to the procedure relating to a joint reso-
 22 lution shall be decided without debate.

23 (f) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE OF
 24 REPRESENTATIVES.—

1 (1) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER
 2 HOUSE.—If, before the passage by one House of a
 3 joint resolution of approval of that House, that
 4 House receives from the other House a joint resolu-
 5 tion of approval relating to the same notice under
 6 subsection (b), the following procedures shall apply:

7 (A) The joint resolution of the other House
 8 shall not be referred to a committee.

9 (B) With respect to the joint resolution of
 10 the House receiving the joint resolution—

11 (i) the procedure in that House shall
 12 be the same as if no joint resolution had
 13 been received from the other House; but

14 (ii) the vote on passage shall be on
 15 the joint resolution of the other House.

16 (2) TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF
 17 OTHER HOUSE.—If one House fails to introduce or
 18 consider a joint resolution of approval under this
 19 section, the joint resolution of approval of the other
 20 House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures
 21 under this section.

22 (3) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—
 23 If, following passage of a joint resolution of approval
 24 in the Senate, the Senate then receives the com-

1 panion measure from the House of Representatives,
 2 the companion measure shall not be debatable.

3 (4) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 4 AND SENATE.—This subsection and subsections (c),
 5 (d), and (e) are enacted by Congress—

6 (A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power
 7 of the Senate and the House of Representa-
 8 tives, respectively, and as such are deemed a
 9 part of the rules of each House, respectively,
 10 but applicable only with respect to the proce-
 11 dure to be followed in that House in the case
 12 of a joint resolution of approval, and supersede
 13 other rules only to the extent that they are in-
 14 consistent with such rules; and

15 (B) with full recognition of the constitu-
 16 tional right of either House to change the rules,
 17 so far as relating to the procedure of that
 18 House, at any time, in the same manner and to
 19 the same extent as in the case of any other rule
 20 of that House.

21 (g) COVERED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT DE-
 22 FINED.—In this section, the term “covered settlement
 23 agreement” means the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agree-
 24 ment approved by the court in “In Re College Athlete NIL
 25 Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025)

1 or as modified pursuant to the amendment provision speci-
 2 fied in paragraph 55 of that settlement.

3 **SEC. 116. COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF COLLEGE ATH-**
 4 **LETICS.**

5 (a) COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF COLLEGE ATH-
 6 LETICS.—

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

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

16 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

17 (1) COMPOSITION.—Subject to paragraph (2),
 18 the Commission shall be composed of 24 members,
 19 of whom—

20 (A) 4 members shall be appointed by the
 21 chair of the Committee on Commerce, Science,
 22 and Transportation of the Senate, in consulta-
 23 tion with the chair of the Committee on Health,
 24 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate,

1 of which at least 1 member shall be a student
2 athlete or former student athlete;

3 (B) 4 members shall be appointed by the
4 ranking member of the Committee on Com-
5 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
6 ate, in consultation with the ranking member of
7 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
8 and Pensions of the Senate, of which at least
9 1 member shall be a student athlete or former
10 student athlete;

11 (C) 4 members shall be appointed by the
12 chair of the Committee on Energy and Com-
13 merce of the House of Representatives, in con-
14 sultation with the chair of the Committee on
15 Education and Workforce of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives, of which at least 1 member shall
17 be a student athlete or former student athlete;

18 (D) 4 members shall be appointed by the
19 ranking member of the Committee on Energy
20 and Commerce of the House of Representatives,
21 in consultation with the ranking member of the
22 Committee on Education and Workforce of the
23 House of Representatives, of which at least 1
24 member shall be a student athlete or former
25 student athlete;

1 (E) 1 member shall be a current or former
2 student athlete appointed by the majority leader
3 of the Senate, in consultation with the chair of
4 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
5 Transportation of the Senate and the chair of
6 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
7 and Pensions of the Senate;

8 (F) 1 member shall be a current or former
9 student athlete appointed by the minority leader
10 of the Senate, in consultation with the ranking
11 member of the Committee on Commerce,
12 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and
13 the ranking member of the Committee on
14 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the
15 Senate;

16 (G) 1 member shall be a current or former
17 student athlete appointed by Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives, in consultation with
19 the chair of the Committee on Energy and
20 Commerce of the House of Representatives and
21 the chair of the Committee on Education and
22 Workforce of the House of Representatives;

23 (H) 1 member shall be a current or former
24 student athlete appointed by the minority leader
25 of the House of Representatives, in consultation

1 with the ranking member of the Committee on
 2 Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
 3 resentatives and the ranking member of the
 4 Committee on Education and Workforce of the
 5 House of Representatives;

6 (I) 1 member shall be a representative of
 7 a historically Black college or university, ap-
 8 pointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

9 (J) 1 member shall be a representative of
 10 a historically Black college or university, ap-
 11 pointed by the Speaker of the House of Rep-
 12 resentatives;

13 (K) 1 member shall be a representative of
 14 a mid-sized conference, appointed by the major-
 15 ity leader of the Senate; and

16 (L) 1 member shall be a representative of
 17 a mid-sized conference, appointed by the Speak-
 18 er of the House of Representatives.

19 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Members of the Commis-
 20 sion shall be individuals who are nationally recog-
 21 nized for expertise, knowledge, or experience in mat-
 22 ters related to college athletics, university adminis-
 23 tration, sports law, labor law, athlete welfare, sports
 24 economics, health care, or sports medicine.

1 (3) CO-CHAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND
2 STAFF.—

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

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

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

9 (B) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—
10 The co-chairs of the Commission shall appoint
11 an executive director of the Commission and
12 such staff as appropriate, with compensation.

13 (4) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
14 VERSITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term
15 “historically Black college or university” has the
16 meaning given the term “part B institution” in sec-
17 tion 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
18 U.S.C. 1061).

19 (5) MID-SIZED CONFERENCE DEFINED.—In
20 this subsection, the term “mid-sized conference”
21 means any conference that has generated less than
22 \$500,000,000 in total annual revenue during the
23 preceding academic year.

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

1 (1) hold such hearings and sit and act at such
 2 times and places, take such testimony, receive such
 3 evidence, and administer such oaths as the Commis-
 4 sion considers relevant to the purpose of the Com-
 5 mission; 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, provided that the
 12 Commission shall take such action as may be nec-
 13 essary and appropriate to preserve the confiden-
 14 tiality of trade secrets or other confidential informa-
 15 tion of conferences, intercollegiate athletic associa-
 16 tions, institutions, or other entities the Commission
 17 deems appropriate.

18 (d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Commission are as
 19 follows:

20 (1) To study and develop recommendations re-
 21 garding—

22 (A) an alternative structure for providing
 23 compensation for student athletes, including
 24 consideration of the positive and negative impli-
 25 cations associated with a collective bargaining

1 structure and employment status for student
2 athletes;

3 (B) protecting and preserving athletic op-
4 portunities for student athletes, particularly in
5 non-revenue generating, women's, and Olympic
6 sports intercollegiate athletic programs;

7 (C) whether any intercollegiate sport
8 should be subject to spending or cost limita-
9 tions;

10 (D) whether to eliminate, extend, or
11 change the revenue share cap and retention
12 fund described in section 114(a)(2), including
13 consideration of the calculation of the revenue
14 share cap and additional categories of revenue
15 that should be included in such calculation;

16 (E) compliance with endorsement contract
17 reporting requirements established by an ath-
18 letic association or a conference;

19 (F) adequacy of health, wellness, and safe-
20 ty standards established pursuant to this title
21 and compliance with those standards by institu-
22 tions, including a review of violations of this
23 title, student athlete injuries, student athlete
24 deaths, the adequacy of the independent report-
25 ing structure of the athletic health and safety

1 officers, and the independence of medical per-
2 sonnel decisions, and consideration of options
3 for additional health, wellness, and safety
4 standards and increased oversight (including by
5 a third-party oversight organization) to improve
6 compliance and enforcement of health, wellness,
7 and safety standards;

8 (G) the adequacy of the athlete agent pro-
9 visions of this title;

10 (H) the extent to which student athletes
11 experience abuse or mistreatment and measures
12 that could protect student athletes from such
13 abuse or mistreatment, including consideration
14 of options for greater oversight (including by a
15 third-party oversight organization) to reduce in-
16 stances of abuse and mistreatment;

17 (I) the benefits of the intercollegiate ath-
18 letic system, including consideration of how the
19 balance of education and athletics impacts the
20 life skills, educational opportunities, leadership
21 skills, character development, and personal
22 growth of the student athlete;

23 (J) within the Student Athlete Retention
24 Council established under subsection (e), wheth-
25 er the retention fund exception under section

1 114(a)(2)(A) should be adjusted after the date
 2 of the enactment of this Act, and if so, the
 3 amount of annual compensation that should be
 4 subject to the retention fund exception;

5 (K) the opportunities and drawbacks with
 6 providing student athletes a method to derive
 7 long term financial stability through financial
 8 interest in the value of a collegiate athletic pro-
 9 gram; and

10 (L) any other recommendations regarding
 11 intercollegiate athletics.

12 (2) To draft a joint resolution of approval
 13 under subsection (j) that provides for implementa-
 14 tion of the recommendation of the Commission on
 15 whether to eliminate, raise, or lower the Pool Bene-
 16 fits Limit in section 114(a).

17 (3) Not later than 30 months after the date of
 18 the enactment of this Act, to submit a preliminary
 19 report on the Commission's findings related to mat-
 20 ters under paragraph (1) to—

21 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
 22 and Transportation of the Senate;

23 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
 24 merce of the House of Representatives; and

25 (C) the President.

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

6 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
 7 and Transportation of the Senate;

8 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
 9 merce of the House of Representatives; and

10 (C) the President.

11 (e) STUDENT ATHLETE RETENTION COUNCIL.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within
 13 the Commission a council, to be known as the “Stu-
 14 dent Athlete Retention Council”, for the purposes of
 15 providing recommendations pursuant to subsection
 16 (d)(1)(J) on the future of the retention fund excep-
 17 tion under section 114(a)(2)(A).

18 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Student Athlete Reten-
 19 tion Council shall be composed of 16 members, of
 20 whom—

21 (A) 8 shall be representatives of Division I
 22 institutions, with not more than one institution
 23 coming from the same conference; and

24 (B) 8 shall be student athletes elected by
 25 all Division I student athletes.

1 (3) **AUTHORITY.**—The Student Athlete Reten-
2 tion Council may sit and act at such times and
3 places as necessary for the purpose of providing rec-
4 ommendations specified in subsection (d)(1)(J).

5 (f) **QUORUM.**—Twelve members of the Commission,
6 of which 5 members shall be current or former student
7 athletes, shall constitute a quorum.

8 (g) **INITIAL MEETING.**—The Commission shall hold
9 an initial meeting not later than 30 days after the date
10 on which a sufficient number of members have been ap-
11 pointed under subsection (b) to constitute a quorum pur-
12 suant to subsection (f).

13 (h) **PUBLIC HEARINGS.**—The Commission shall hold
14 1 or more public hearings.

15 (i) **STATUS.**—The Commission is not an agency (as
16 defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code).

17 (j) **JOINT RESOLUTION.**—Any Member of Congress
18 may introduce a joint resolution for consideration to adopt
19 any of the recommendations of the Commission, in whole
20 or in part, including any recommendations from the Com-
21 mission on whether to eliminate, raise, or lower the Pool
22 Benefits Limit.

23 (k) **TERMINATION.**—The Commission shall terminate
24 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits
25 the report required by this section.

1 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 2 authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such
 3 sums as may be necessary in any fiscal year, half of which
 4 shall be derived from the applicable account of the House
 5 of Representatives and half of which shall be derived from
 6 the contingent fund of the Senate.

7 **SEC. 117. RECRUITMENT AND TAMPERING.**

8 An intercollegiate athletic association may enforce
 9 provisions on recruitment and tampering of student ath-
 10 letes or prospective student athletes before and during
 11 their eligibility for intercollegiate athletic competition
 12 that—

13 (1) prohibit an institution, an employee of an
 14 institution, a conference, an employee of a con-
 15 ference, or an associated entity from contacting a
 16 student athlete who is enrolled at or committed to
 17 another institution for the purpose of recruiting that
 18 student athlete to transfer to or enroll at an institu-
 19 tion except for during a reasonable period (or peri-
 20 ods) of time established for each intercollegiate sport
 21 that in no case shall be less than 2 weeks or greater
 22 than 5 weeks starting after the last intercollegiate
 23 athletic competition in an academic year in the
 24 intercollegiate sport in which the student athlete

1 competes and in which student athletes from the
2 same intercollegiate athletic association competed;

3 (2) prohibit an athlete agent from contacting
4 an institution, employee of an institution, or associ-
5 ated entity on behalf of a student athlete who is en-
6 rolled at or committed to another institution for the
7 purpose of facilitating the transfer or enrollment of
8 the student athlete at the contacted institution ex-
9 cept for during a reasonable period (or periods) of
10 time for each intercollegiate sport that in no case
11 shall be less than 2 weeks or greater than 5 weeks
12 starting after the last intercollegiate athletic com-
13 petition in an academic year in the intercollegiate
14 sport in which the student athlete competes and in
15 which student athletes from the same intercollegiate
16 athletic association competed;

17 (3) prohibit an institution, an employee of an
18 institution, a conference, an employee of a con-
19 ference, or an associated entity from contacting a
20 prospective student athlete, who has not enrolled in
21 an institution, for the purpose of recruiting that pro-
22 spective student athlete to attend an institution as
23 a student athlete except for during a reasonable pe-
24 riod (or periods) of time established for each sport

1 that in no case shall be less than 2 weeks or greater
2 than 5 weeks;

3 (4) prohibit an athlete agent from contacting
4 an institution, employee of an institution, or associ-
5 ated entity on behalf of a prospective student ath-
6 lete, who has not enrolled in an institution, for the
7 purpose of facilitating the enrollment of the prospec-
8 tive student athlete at an institution as a student
9 athlete except for during a reasonable period (or pe-
10 riods) of time for each sport that in no case shall
11 be less than 2 weeks or greater than 5 weeks;

12 (5) prohibit an institution, an employee of an
13 institution, a conference, an employee of a con-
14 ference, an associated entity, or an athlete agent
15 from recruiting or contacting a student athlete or
16 prospective student athlete who has not affirmatively
17 opted in to receive such recruitment or contact;

18 (6) prohibit an institution, an employee of an
19 institution, a volunteer of an institution, an associ-
20 ated entity, an athlete agent, a conference, an em-
21 ployee of a conference, or a volunteer of a conference
22 from inducing a student athlete or a prospective stu-
23 dent athlete to enroll at an institution or transfer to
24 an institution by offering compensation to a student

1 athlete in violation of any of paragraphs (1) through
 2 (5); or

3 (7) notwithstanding paragraph (1) or (2) of
 4 this section, ensure that a student athlete permitted
 5 to transfer under one or more of the exceptions
 6 specified in section 112(3) may affirmatively opt in
 7 to receive recruitment or contact at a time outside
 8 the times described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this
 9 section for the purpose of transferring pursuant to
 10 one or more of such exceptions.

11 **SEC. 118. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.**

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

16 (1) section 114;

17 (2) section 115;

18 (3) section 113;

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

21 (5) section 117;

22 (6) section 112;

23 (7) rules, bylaws, or requirements of an inter-
 24 collegiate athletic association that determine whether
 25 a specific institution is selected to participate in a

1 championship or tournament if the process for se-
 2 lecting participants is not entitled to antitrust ex-
 3 emption under this subsection;

4 (8) section 103; and

5 (9) section 110.

6 (b) SANCTIONS BY AN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC
 7 ASSOCIATION.—It shall not be unlawful under the anti-
 8 trust laws for an intercollegiate athletic association or con-
 9 ference to, including through rules or bylaws—

10 (1) impose a fine against an institution, an em-
 11 ployee, or volunteer of an institution, a conference,
 12 an employee of a conference, or an associated entity
 13 for a violation of sections 110, 112, 113, 114, 115,
 14 or 117;

15 (2) restrict an institution, employee or volun-
 16 teer of an institution, a conference, or an employee
 17 of a conference, from participation in intercollegiate
 18 athletic competition, including championships or
 19 tournaments, for a violation of sections 110, 112,
 20 113, 114, 115, or 117;

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

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

1 (B) has transferred to an institution in a
 2 manner that does not comply with section 112;
 3 or

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

6 (4) decertify an athlete agent for violations of
 7 section 103 or the amendments made by section
 8 102.

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

17 (d) DESIGNATION OF ENTITY.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic
 19 association or conference may designate an entity
 20 under its control pursuant to the Injunctive Relief
 21 Settlement Agreement approved by the court in “In
 22 Re College Athlete NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–
 23 03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025) for which it shall
 24 not be unlawful to enforce or comply with section
 25 114.

1 (2) NOTICE AND COMMENT REQUIREMENT.—If
 2 an entity designated under paragraph (1) proposes
 3 to issue a measure, rule, guidance, or policy inter-
 4 preting or implementing the Injunctive Relief Settle-
 5 ment Agreement approved by the court in “In Re
 6 College Athlete NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919
 7 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025), the designated entity
 8 shall give reasonable prior notice and an opportunity
 9 to comment to the defendant parties in “In Re Col-
 10 lege Athlete NIL Litigation”.

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

12 (a) VIOLATIONS.—A person may file a civil action in
 13 an appropriate district court of the United States or in
 14 an appropriate State court only for a violation of the fol-
 15 lowing:

- 16 (1) Subsections (a) and (c) of section 101.
- 17 (2) Section 104.
- 18 (3) Section 105.
- 19 (4) Section 106.
- 20 (5) Section 107.
- 21 (6) Section 108.
- 22 (7) Section 109.
- 23 (8) Section 111.
- 24 (9) Section 112, only to the extent the claim—

1 (A) alleges an intercollegiate athletic asso-
2 ciation, a conference, or an institution has not
3 complied with the transfer standard set forth in
4 section 112;

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

12 (C) is filed in an appropriate district court
13 of the United States.

14 (10) Section 113, 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 eligibility standard set forth
18 in section 113;

19 (B) is filed against a Division I or Division
20 II institution, as defined by bylaw 20 of the Na-
21 tional Collegiate Athletic Association as of the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, or an inter-
23 collegiate athletic association or a conference
24 comprised of any such institutions; and

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

3 (11) Section 114(b).

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

7 (c) RELIEF.—In a civil action brought under sub-
8 section (a) in which the plaintiff prevails, the court may
9 award the plaintiff—

10 (1) actual damages; and

11 (2) any other relief, including equitable relief or
12 declaratory relief, that the court determines appro-
13 priate (including attorney’s fees, if otherwise allowed
14 under applicable law).

15 (d) LIMITATION ON PRE-DISPUTE AGREEMENTS AND
16 WAIVERS.—

17 (1) PRE-DISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREEMENT.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
19 other provision of law, no intercollegiate athletic
20 association, conference, or institution shall in-
21 clude a pre-dispute arbitration agreement (as
22 defined in section 401 of title 9, United States
23 Code) in an agreement with a student athlete
24 regarding a provision of this title or an amend-
25 ment made to this title.

1 (B) TREATMENT OF CLAIM.—If a claim for
 2 a violation of this title arises, a student athlete
 3 has the option to arbitrate the dispute if the
 4 intercollegiate athletic association, conference,
 5 or institution agrees to the arbitration.

6 (2) PRE-DISPUTE JOINT-ACTION WAIVER.—Not-
 7 withstanding any other provision of law, no inter-
 8 collegiate athletic association or conference shall en-
 9 force a pre-dispute joint-action waiver (as defined in
 10 section 401 of title 9, United States Code) against
 11 a student athlete or group of student athletes with
 12 respect to a dispute arising under this title or an
 13 amendment made to this title, so long as there are
 14 not fewer than 7 named plaintiffs.

15 (e) DISPUTES ARISING FROM ENFORCEMENT OF IN-
 16 JUNCTIVE RELIEF SETTLEMENT.—Notwithstanding sub-
 17 section (d)—

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

1 (2) in any dispute regarding whether an institu-
 2 tion, an employee of an institution, a volunteer of an
 3 institution, a conference, an employee of a con-
 4 ference, or an associated entity complied with para-
 5 graph (1) or (2) of section 114(a), an institution, an
 6 employee of an institution, a volunteer of an institu-
 7 tion, a conference, an employee of a conference, or
 8 an associated entity shall follow the procedure set
 9 forth in article 6, section 2 of “In Re College Athlete
 10 NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June
 11 6, 2025).

12 (f) NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR CIVIL ACTIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—A civil action may be
 14 brought by a person under this section only if, prior
 15 to filing such action, the plaintiff provides to the de-
 16 fendant 30 days written notice identifying the spe-
 17 cific provisions set forth in subsection (a) that the
 18 plaintiff alleges have been or are being violated.

19 (2) EFFECT OF CURE.—In the event a cure is
 20 possible, if, within the 30-day period under para-
 21 graph (1), the defendant cures the violation and pro-
 22 vides the plaintiff with an express written statement
 23 that the violation has been cured and no such fur-
 24 ther violation shall occur, an action shall not be per-
 25 mitted.

1 (3) EXCEPTION.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall
2 not apply to any civil action that is based in whole
3 or in part on allegations of physical injury, death, or
4 sexual abuse or misconduct.

5 **SEC. 120. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—No institution, conference, or
7 intercollegiate athletic association, or any agent thereof,
8 may discharge, demote, suspend, withdraw or reduce bene-
9 fits from, threaten, harass, or in any other manner dis-
10 criminate against an employee, a student athlete, a pro-
11 spective student athlete, a former student athlete, a con-
12 tractor, a subcontractor, a service provider, or an agent
13 of an institution, a conference, or an intercollegiate ath-
14 letic association because of any lawful act done by such
15 individual—

16 (1) to provide information to, or cause informa-
17 tion to be provided to, an agency of the Federal
18 Government, an agency of State government, Con-
19 gress, or any law enforcement agency regarding any
20 act or omission that such individual reasonably be-
21 lieves to be a violation of this title or title IX of the
22 Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et
23 seq.); or

24 (2) to file, cause to be filed, testify, participate
25 in, or otherwise assist in a proceeding filed or about

1 to be filed relating to an alleged violation of this title
 2 or title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
 3 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

4 (b) ENFORCEMENT ACTION.—

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

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

11 (A) compensatory damages and the cost of
 12 the action, including reasonable attorney’s fees
 13 and other litigation costs reasonably incurred;

14 (B) in addition to any other relief available
 15 at law, equitable relief that may be necessary or
 16 appropriate to correct a violation of subsection
 17 (a) or make the individual whole again;

18 (C) temporary relief while the case is pend-
 19 ing; and

20 (D) if the prevailing individual is an em-
 21 ployee—

22 (i) reinstatement with the same se-
 23 niority status that the individual would
 24 have had, but for the discrimination; and

1 (ii) backpay otherwise owed to the in-
 2 dividual, with interest.

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

7 (d) NONENFORCEABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS
 8 WAIVING RIGHTS AND REMEDIES OR REQUIRING ARBI-
 9 TRATION OF DISPUTES.—

10 (1) WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND REMEDIES.—The
 11 rights and remedies provided for in this section may
 12 not be waived by any agreement, policy form, condi-
 13 tion of employment, or athletic agreement or partici-
 14 pation.

15 (2) PREDISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS.—
 16 No predispute arbitration agreement shall be valid
 17 or enforceable if the agreement requires arbitration
 18 of a dispute arising under this section.

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

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—No State or political subdivision
 21 of a State may adopt, maintain, enforce, or continue in
 22 effect any law, regulation, rule, requirement, or standard
 23 that—

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

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

4 (A) the compensation to a student athlete
 5 or prospective student athlete for the use of
 6 their name, image, or likeness, except as nec-
 7 essary to comply with this title;

8 (B) transfers of student athletes between
 9 institutions; or

10 (C) any provision described in subsection
 11 (a)(1)-(3) or (b) of section 113 relating to the
 12 eligibility of a student athlete to participate in
 13 intercollegiate athletics.

14 (b) PRESERVATION OF STATE LAWS.—The following
 15 State laws, rules, regulations, or requirements, or common
 16 law rights or remedies shall not be preempted, displaced,
 17 or supplanted:

18 (1) Except to the extent that such law, rule,
 19 regulation, requirement, or common law right or
 20 remedy conflicts with subsection (a), the following:

21 (A) Uniform Athlete Agent Acts.

22 (B) Civil rights laws.

23 (C) Tort law, unless otherwise specified in
 24 paragraph (2).

1 (D) Criminal law, unless otherwise speci-
 2 fied in paragraph (2).

3 (E) Laws that relate to privacy or data
 4 breach.

5 (F) Contract law.

6 (G) Trademark law.

7 (H) Copyright law.

8 (I) Consumer protection law, unless other-
 9 wise specified in paragraph (2).

10 (2) Except to the extent that such law, rule,
 11 regulation, or requirement, or common law right or
 12 remedy conflicts with subsection (a)(2), any law,
 13 rule, regulation, or requirement, or common law
 14 right or remedy, whether statutory or common law,
 15 that gives rise to a cause of action for the following:

16 (A) Personal injury, including psycho-
 17 logical injury.

18 (B) Wrongful death.

19 (C) Property damage.

20 (D) Sexual assault.

21 (E) Harassment.

22 (F) Fraud.

23 (G) Injury resulting from abuse or hazing
 24 of a student athlete, including physical or sex-
 25 ual abuse.

1 (H) Injury resulting from deficient student
2 or campus safety measures.

3 (I) Injury resulting from a failure to pro-
4 vide greater protections to student athletes than
5 those provided by the health, wellness, and safe-
6 ty standards under subsections (a)(1)-(4) or
7 (b)(1)-(2) of section 107.

8 (J) Any related cause of action that is de-
9 rivative of any of subparagraphs (A) through
10 (I).

11 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—To the extent liability
12 for violations of the antitrust laws is not limited by this
13 title, subsection (a) shall not be construed to preempt, dis-
14 place, or supplant the antitrust laws.

15 **SEC. 122. NEUTRALITY ON EMPLOYEE OR NON-EMPLOYEE**
16 **STATUS.**

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

19 **SEC. 123. APPLICABILITY.**

20 (a) Section 113(c)(1)(B) shall apply with respect to
21 any action or proceeding that is pending on or commenced
22 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

23 (b)(1) Except as provided in subsection (a), the provi-
24 sions of this Act shall not apply to any action or pro-
25 ceeding commenced prior to the effective date of this Act.

1 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—Nothing in subsection (b) shall be
2 construed to—

3 (A) allow a student athlete eligibility to partici-
4 pate on a Division I or Division II varsity sports
5 team or in intercollegiate athletic competition for a
6 Division I or Division II institution for more than a
7 total of 5 years; or

8 (B) undermine the Benefits Pool Limit set
9 forth in the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agreement
10 approved by the court in “In Re College Athlete
11 NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June
12 6, 2025), or as modified pursuant to the amendment
13 provision specified in paragraph 55 of that settle-
14 ment, unless such outcome is the result of legal pro-
15 ceedings in the In Re College Athlete NIL Litiga-
16 tion, No. 20–cv–03919, or any appeal of legal pro-
17 ceedings in the In Re College Athlete NIL Litiga-
18 tion, No. 20–cv–03919.

19 (c) Except as provided in subsection (a), nothing in
20 this Act shall be construed to extinguish, impair, or other-
21 wise limit a claim for monetary relief arising from conduct
22 that occurred before the date of the enactment of this Act.

23 **SEC. 124. SEVERABILITY.**

24 If any provision of this title, or an amendment made
25 by this title, is determined to be unenforceable or invalid,

1 the remaining provisions of this title and the amendments
 2 made by this title shall not be affected.

3 **SEC. 125. PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S SPORTS AND OLYMPIC**
 4 **SPORTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic associa-
 6 tion or conference comprised of Division I institutions, as
 7 defined by bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic
 8 Association, or a successor bylaw, shall not reduce the
 9 minimum intercollegiate athletic competitions, minimum
 10 participants on a varsity sports team, or the number of
 11 varsity sports teams, including the number of men's and
 12 women's varsity sports teams or Olympic varsity sports
 13 teams, that an institution must sponsor for membership
 14 within—

15 (1) Division I of the National Collegiate Ath-
 16 letic Association, as defined by bylaw 20.9 of the
 17 National Collegiate Athletic Association, or a suc-
 18 cessor bylaw; or

19 (2) the Football Bowl Subdivision, as defined
 20 by bylaw 20.9.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic
 21 Association, or successor bylaw.

22 (b) LARGE-SIZED INSTITUTIONS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
 24 graph (2), an intercollegiate athletic association or
 25 conference comprised of institutions shall provide

1 that each institution shall, consistent with applicable
 2 intercollegiate athletic association rules, offer and
 3 maintain at least as many total grant-in-aid oppor-
 4 tunities and total roster spots for non-revenue gener-
 5 ating intercollegiate sports programs, including
 6 women's and Olympic intercollegiate sports pro-
 7 grams, during each academic year as the member in-
 8 stitution provided during academic year 2024–2025.

9 (2) WAIVER.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—An institution may be
 11 granted a waiver from compliance with para-
 12 graph (1) for not more than one academic year
 13 at a time by an intercollegiate athletic associa-
 14 tion if the institution provides evidence that—

15 (i) annual athletics revenues have de-
 16 clined not less than 15 percent based on
 17 the average of the preceding three aca-
 18 demic years, and total grant-in-aid ac-
 19 counts for not less than 45 percent of the
 20 total expenses of the athletic department of
 21 the institution;

22 (ii) compliance with paragraph (1)
 23 would materially impair the ability of the
 24 institution to comply with Federal law; or

1 (iii) there are extraordinary cir-
 2 cumstances relating to financial hardship,
 3 including from a natural disaster, act of
 4 war, or another catastrophe, that are be-
 5 yond the control of the institution or mate-
 6 rially impair the ability of the institution
 7 to comply with paragraph (1).

8 (B) CONDITION.—As a condition of seek-
 9 ing a waiver under subparagraph (A)(i), an in-
 10 stitution shall first reduce the total compensa-
 11 tion of the coaching staff of its revenue-gener-
 12 ating varsity sports programs by the same pro-
 13 portion as any planned reduction in expendi-
 14 tures for its non-revenue generating intercolle-
 15 giate sports programs during the waiver period.

16 (3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

17 (A) INSTITUTION.—The term “institution”
 18 means an institution, as defined by bylaw 20.9
 19 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association,
 20 or a successor bylaw, that, upon the date of the
 21 enactment of this Act, reports, as required
 22 under section 485(g) of the Higher Education
 23 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092(g)), having gen-
 24 erated not less than \$80,000,000 in total an-

1 nual athletics revenue during the preceding aca-
2 demic year.

3 (B) NON-REVENUE GENERATING INTER-
4 COLLEGIATE SPORTS PROGRAM.—the term
5 “non-revenue generating intercollegiate sports
6 program” means an intercollegiate sports pro-
7 gram at an institution for which, during an aca-
8 demic year, the revenues generated specifically
9 attributable to that sports program are less
10 than the direct and allocated operating expenses
11 of that sports program.

12 (4) SUNSET.—This subsection shall terminate
13 on the date that is 9 years after the date of the en-
14 actment of this Act.

15 (c) TRANSITIONAL PROTECTION FOR WOMEN’S AND
16 OLYMPIC SPORTS AT MID-SIZED INSTITUTIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
18 graph (2), an intercollegiate athletic association or
19 conference comprised of covered mid-sized institu-
20 tions shall provide that each such institution shall,
21 consistent with applicable intercollegiate athletic as-
22 sociation rules, offer and maintain at least as many
23 total grant-in-aid opportunities and total roster
24 spots for non-revenue generating intercollegiate
25 sports programs, including women’s and Olympic

1 intercollegiate sports programs, during each aca-
2 demic year as the institution provided during aca-
3 demic year 2024–2025.

4 (2) EXEMPTIONS.—An institution shall be ex-
5 empt from the requirement under paragraph (1) for
6 an academic year if—

7 (A) the total annual athletics revenue of
8 the institution, as reported under section
9 485(g) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
10 (20 U.S.C. 1092(g)), declined by not less than
11 15 percent from the immediately preceding aca-
12 demic year;

13 (B) the institution petitions the relevant
14 intercollegiate athletic association for, and is
15 granted, an exemption based on a demonstrable
16 financial hardship;

17 (C) compliance with that paragraph would
18 materially impair the ability of the institution
19 to comply with Federal law; or

20 (D) there are extraordinary circumstances
21 relating to financial hardship, including from a
22 natural disaster, act of war, or other cir-
23 cumstance that is beyond the control of the in-
24 stitution or materially impair the ability of the
25 institution to comply with that paragraph.

1 (3) COVERED MID-SIZED INSTITUTION DE-
 2 FINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered mid-
 3 sized institution” means an institution, as defined by
 4 bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Asso-
 5 ciation, or a successor bylaw, that, upon the date of
 6 the enactment of this Act, reports, as required under
 7 section 485(g) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
 8 (20 U.S.C. 1092(g)), having generated not less than
 9 \$50,000,000 but less than \$80,000,000 in total an-
 10 nual athletics revenue during the preceding academic
 11 year.

12 (4) SUNSET.—This subsection shall terminate
 13 on the date that is 4 years after the date of the en-
 14 actment of this Act.

15 (d) CLARIFICATION OF FLEXIBILITY.—Nothing in
 16 this section may be construed to prevent an institution or
 17 a covered mid-sized institution from modifying or sub-
 18 stituting which varsity sports it sponsors, or the number
 19 of roster spots and grant-in-aid opportunities on each var-
 20 sity sport, so long as the institution—

21 (1) complies with bylaw 20.9 of the National
 22 Collegiate Athletic Association, or a successor bylaw,
 23 or bylaw 20.9.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic
 24 Association, or a successor bylaw; and

1 (2) as applicable under subsections (b) and (c),
 2 offers and maintains at least as many total grant-
 3 in-aid opportunities and total roster spots for non-
 4 revenue generating intercollegiate sports programs
 5 during each academic year as the institution pro-
 6 vided during academic year 2024–2025.

7 (e) CLARIFICATION OF WALK-ON ATHLETE ELIGI-
 8 BILITY FOR PARA ATHLETES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provi-
 10 sion of this Act—

11 (A) an institution and the athletic director
 12 of an institution shall retain full authority to
 13 include para athletes on their roster spots for
 14 intercollegiate sports as walk-on athletes;

15 (B) subparagraph (A) does not constitute
 16 a violation of roster or scholarship limits for
 17 intercollegiate sports covered under this Act or
 18 under “In Re College Athlete NIL Litigation”,
 19 No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025);
 20 and

21 (C) para athletes included as walk-on ath-
 22 letes shall not be counted toward any roster cap
 23 or scholarship count established for that inter-
 24 collegiate sport.

25 (2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) PARA ATHLETE.—The term “para athlete” means a nationally or internationally classified athlete eligible to compete in the Paralympic Games pursuant to qualifications determined by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee under chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code.

(B) WALK-ON ATHLETE.—The term “walk-on athlete” means an enrolled student athlete who participates on a sport roster without receiving athletics-based scholarship aid.

**SEC. 126. MID-SIZED CONFERENCE REPRESENTATION ON
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
GOVERNING BOARDS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic association, of which a mid-sized conference is a member, shall ensure any board of directors or other governing board of the intercollegiate athletic association, or any committee of the intercollegiate athletic association with authority to establish and enforce rules or bylaws, is comprised of adequate representation by mid-sized conferences.

(b) MID-SIZED CONFERENCE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “mid-sized conference” means any conference that has generated less than \$500,000,000 in total annual revenue during the preceding academic year.

1 **SEC. 127. TITLE IX SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

2 Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this
3 title shall be construed to override, modify, or amend the
4 applicability of title IX of the Education Amendments of
5 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

6 **SEC. 128. PROTECTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN**
7 **STUDENT ATHLETES.**

8 It is the policy of the United States that any institu-
9 tion of higher education participating in intercollegiate
10 athletics should prioritize domestic students in the selec-
11 tion of student athletes and the awarding of athletic op-
12 portunities, including grant-in-aid and roster positions, on
13 the varsity sports teams of that institution.

14 **SEC. 129. DISCLOSURE OF FOREIGN FINANCING OF INTER-**
15 **COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS.**

16 (a) DISCLOSURE TO INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC
17 ASSOCIATION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—A covered person shall dis-
19 close to the relevant intercollegiate athletic associa-
20 tion (except in the case of a covered person that is
21 an intercollegiate athletic association) all amounts
22 that exceed \$600 in value received by the covered
23 person relating to intercollegiate athletics from a
24 foreign government, a foreign adversary, a state-
25 owned enterprise, or a sovereign wealth fund.

1 (2) DISCLOSURE DEADLINES.—Disclosures
2 under paragraph (1) shall be made not later than 30
3 days after—

4 (A) entering into a relevant transaction or
5 receiving funds, whichever occurs first; or

6 (B) any material change that would impact
7 a previous disclosure.

8 (b) REPORT AND PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than August 1 of
10 each year, each intercollegiate athletic association
11 shall submit to the Secretary of Education, the
12 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
13 tation of the Senate, and the Committee on Energy
14 and Commerce of the House of Representatives a re-
15 port on—

16 (A) all disclosures received under sub-
17 section (a) during the one-year period preceding
18 the date of the report; and

19 (B) any amounts received by the intercolle-
20 giate athletic association relating to intercolle-
21 giate athletics from a foreign government, a
22 foreign adversary, a state-owned enterprise, or
23 a sovereign wealth fund during the one-year pe-
24 riod preceding the date of the report.

1 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each intercolle-
 2 giate athletic association shall publish on a publicly
 3 available website an updated disclosure containing
 4 the matter required under paragraph (1) not later
 5 than January 31 and July 31 of each year.

6 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) COVERED PERSON.—The term “covered
 8 person” means—

9 (A) an institution;

10 (B) a conference; or

11 (C) an intercollegiate athletic association.

12 (2) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term “foreign
 13 adversary” has the meaning given the term “covered
 14 nation” in section 4872 of title 10, United States
 15 Code.

16 (3) SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND.—The term
 17 “sovereign wealth fund” means an investment fund,
 18 investment vehicle, or investment entity established,
 19 owned, controlled, or directed by a foreign govern-
 20 ment.

21 **TITLE II—SPORTS** 22 **BROADCASTING**

23 **SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

24 (a) REFERENCES TO SPORTS BROADCASTING ACT OF
 25 1961.—In this Act, the term “Sports Broadcasting Act

1 of 1961” means the Act of September 30, 1961 (15
2 U.S.C. 1291 et seq.).

3 (b) AMENDMENTS TO SPORTS BROADCASTING ACT
4 OF 1961.—The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is
5 amended—

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

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

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

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

14 (B) by inserting before paragraph (12), as
15 so designated, the following:

16 “(1) COLLECTIVE MEDIA RIGHTS REVENUE.—
17 The term ‘collective media rights revenue’ means
18 revenue derived from the sale or transfer of the
19 media rights of the member institutions and member
20 conferences of the covered entity resulting from the
21 joint agreement described in section 5.

22 “(2) CONFERENCE.—The term ‘conference’
23 means any organization that is not an intercollegiate
24 athletic association and that—

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

3 “(B) arranges championships for inter-
4 collegiate athletic competitions or sets rules for
5 intercollegiate athletic competitions.

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

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

12 “(A) means a scholarship, grant, stipend,
13 or other form of financial assistance, including
14 the provision of tuition, room, board, books, or
15 funds for fees or personal expenses, that—

16 “(i) is paid or provided by an institu-
17 tion to a student for the undergraduate or
18 graduate course of study of the student;
19 and

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

23 “(B) does not include compensation paid
24 to an individual who is a student athlete or a
25 former student athlete.

1 “(5) INSTITUTION.—The term ‘institution’ has
 2 the meaning given the term ‘institution of higher
 3 education’ in section 101 of the Higher Education
 4 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

5 “(6) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-
 6 TION.—The term ‘intercollegiate athletic associa-
 7 tion’—

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

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

13 “(I) are located in different
 14 States; or

15 “(II) participate in intercollegiate
 16 athletic competitions in more than 1
 17 State;

18 “(ii) sponsors or arranges intercolle-
 19 giate athletic competitions between institu-
 20 tions;

21 “(iii) sets common rules, standards,
 22 procedures, or guidelines for the adminis-
 23 tration of intercollegiate athletic competi-
 24 tion; and

25 “(iv) is not a conference;

1 “(B) includes—

2 “(i) the National Collegiate Athletic
3 Association; and

4 “(ii) any other national intercollegiate
5 athletic association; and

6 “(C) does not include a corporation, asso-
7 ciation, or other group affiliated with profes-
8 sional athletic competition.

9 “(7) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC COMPETI-
10 TION.—The term ‘intercollegiate athletic competi-
11 tion’ means any varsity intercollegiate sport contest,
12 game, meet, match, tournament, regatta, or other
13 intercollegiate sport event in which student athletes
14 or varsity sports teams compete.

15 “(8) INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.—The term
16 ‘intercollegiate football’ means the intercollegiate
17 sport of football.

18 “(9) INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT.—The term
19 ‘intercollegiate sport’—

20 “(A) means a sport played at the inter-
21 collegiate level, administered by an athletic de-
22 partment, between institutions for which eligi-
23 bility requirements for participation by a stu-
24 dent athlete are established by an intercolle-
25 giate athletic association; and

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

3 “(10) MEMBER CONFERENCE.—The term
4 ‘member conference’, with respect to the covered en-
5 tity, means a conference that is a member of the
6 covered entity.

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

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

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

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

17 “(B) makes satisfactory progress towards
18 completing a degree; and

19 “(C) participates in intercollegiate athletic
20 competitions or competes for a varsity sports
21 team as part of the institution’s educational,
22 developmental, or extracurricular programs.

23 “(14) TOP 5 HISTORIC OPPONENTS IN INTER-
24 COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.—The term ‘top 5 historic
25 opponents in intercollegiate football’, with respect to

1 an institution, means the 5 other institutions against
 2 which the institution has played the most intercolle-
 3 giate athletic competitions within intercollegiate
 4 football.

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

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

16 “(A) are both members of the covered enti-
 17 ty;

18 “(B) are not members of the same con-
 19 ference; and

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

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

1 **SEC. 202. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY FOR TRANSMISSION**
 2 **OF COLLEGIATE SPORTS COMPETITIONS.**

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

5 (1) by striking “That the” and inserting the
 6 following:

7 **“SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS FROM**
 8 **ANTITRUST LAWS.**

9 “(a) PROFESSIONAL SPORTS.—The”; and

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

11 “(b) COLLEGE SPORTS.—The antitrust laws, as de-
 12 fined in subsection (a), shall not apply to any joint agree-
 13 ment, by or among institutions engaging in or conducting
 14 organized intercollegiate sports, or conferences that have
 15 such institutions as members, to form and operate a cov-
 16 ered entity that complies with and enforces the require-
 17 ments of section 5 and sells or otherwise transfers to a
 18 third party all or any part of the rights of the institutions
 19 or conferences in the sponsored telecasting of the inter-
 20 collegiate athletic competitions engaged in or conducted by
 21 the institutions or conferences.”.

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

24 (1) in section 2 (15 U.S.C. 1292)—

25 (A) by striking “Section 1” and inserting
 26 “Section 1(a)”; and

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

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

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

8 **SEC. 203. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTITIES SELLING MEDIA**
 9 **RIGHTS.**

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

13 **“SEC. 5. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTITIES SELLING MEDIA**
 14 **RIGHTS.**

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

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

21 “(1) **ELIGIBLE MEMBERSHIP.**—A joint agree-
 22 ment to form the covered entity shall be comprised
 23 of a voluntary association of institutions or con-
 24 ferences that includes, at a minimum, as of the date
 25 on which the joint agreement is entered into, not

less than 75 percent of the institutions participating in the Football Bowl Subdivision, as defined by Bylaw 20.9.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

“(2) INVITATION REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The covered entity shall offer membership on fair and nondiscriminatory terms to each conference and each institution that is in Division I, as defined by Bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association as of the date of enactment of the Protect College Sports Act of 2026.

“(B) OPTIONAL PARTICIPATION.—No conference or institution shall be required to join the covered entity or accept an offer under subparagraph (A), but no conference or institution eligible for membership under subparagraph (A) may be refused an invitation to join the covered entity.

“(c) VOTING RIGHTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) VOTES OF CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONS.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the covered entity shall—

1 “(i) in the bylaws of the covered enti-
2 ty—

3 “(I) provide that each member
4 conference or member institution has
5 1 vote on each type of decision or de-
6 termination described in paragraph
7 (2); and

8 “(II) specify the minimum num-
9 ber of votes required for each type of
10 decision or determination described in
11 paragraph (2); and

12 “(ii) require the bylaws to be adopted
13 unanimously by the member conferences
14 and member institutions.

15 “(B) VOTES OF STUDENT ATHLETES.—

16 The covered entity shall—

17 “(i) for purposes of decisions and de-
18 terminations described in paragraph
19 (2)(C), designate not fewer than 10 indi-
20 viduals who, as of the date of designation,
21 are student athletes or were student ath-
22 letes during the preceding 10-year period;
23 and

24 “(ii) ensure that each individual des-
25 ignated under clause (i) has 1 vote on a

1 decision or determination described in
2 paragraph (2)(C).

3 “(C) NON-VOTING MEMBER CON-
4 FERENCES.—If a conference and 1 or more of
5 the institutions of the conference are members
6 of the covered entity, the conference shall be a
7 non-voting member of the covered entity.

8 “(2) VOTING THRESHOLDS.—

9 “(A) MAJOR DECISIONS.—A major deci-
10 sion, as defined by the bylaws of the covered
11 entity, shall require a vote totaling not less than
12 $\frac{2}{3}$ of the member conferences or member insti-
13 tutions exercising their voting rights.

14 “(B) NON-MAJOR DECISIONS.—A non-
15 major decision, as defined by the bylaws of the
16 covered entity, shall require a vote totaling not
17 less than a majority of the member conferences
18 or member institutions exercising their voting
19 rights.

20 “(C) REVENUE DISTRIBUTIONS OR
21 CHANGES TO VOTING ALLOCATIONS.—A deter-
22 mination regarding the allocation of collective
23 media rights revenue or a decision to change a
24 voting threshold described in this paragraph
25 shall require a unanimous vote of the member

1 conferences, member institutions, or current or
 2 former student athletes exercising their voting
 3 rights.

4 “(D) MEDIA RIGHTS REQUIREMENT.—A
 5 determination of which media rights shall be
 6 contributed to the covered entity pursuant to
 7 subsection (f) shall require a unanimous vote of
 8 the member conferences or member institutions
 9 exercising their voting rights.

10 “(d) REVENUE ALLOCATION FORMULA.—

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

15 “(A) according to the allocation of collec-
 16 tive media rights revenue most recently deter-
 17 mined in accordance with subsection (c)(2)(C);
 18 and

19 “(B) in accordance with the requirements
 20 of this subsection.

21 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The distribution of col-
 22 lective media rights revenue under paragraph (1)
 23 shall—

24 “(A) ensure that—

1 “(i) each member conference or mem-
2 ber institution receives a minimum dis-
3 tribution of collective media rights revenue,
4 the amount of which shall be established
5 under a bylaw adopted in accordance with
6 subsection (c)(2)(C); and

7 “(ii) each member institution receives
8 more collective media rights revenue (ex-
9 cluding revenue from the College Football
10 Playoff) during each academic year than
11 the largest amount of collective media
12 rights revenue (excluding revenue from the
13 College Football Playoff) that the institu-
14 tion received in any single academic year
15 during the period of academic year 2021–
16 2022 through academic year 2024–2025;

17 “(B) distribute not less than 15 percent of
18 the collective media rights revenue that remains
19 after compliance with subparagraph (A) equally
20 among all member institutions that received
21 revenue from intercollegiate athletic competi-
22 tions within intercollegiate football in the Foot-
23 ball Bowl Subdivision during academic year
24 2024–2025; and

1 “(C) distribute the collective media rights
 2 revenue that remains after compliance with sub-
 3 paragraphs (A) and (B) to member institutions
 4 based on the performance of each institution
 5 during the academic year with respect to the in-
 6 stitution’s contribution to the collective media
 7 rights revenue.

8 “(3) TRANSFER OF REVENUE.—Before distrib-
 9 uting collective media rights revenue under para-
 10 graph (1), the covered entity shall, in accordance
 11 with section 106, transfer an amount of collective
 12 media rights revenue to the fund or program estab-
 13 lished under that section to ensure that the program
 14 or fund is adequately funded.

15 “(e) PROTECTION OF WOMEN’S AND OLYMPIC
 16 SPORTS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any member institution
 18 that receives collective media rights revenue shall,
 19 consistent with applicable intercollegiate athletic as-
 20 sociation rules, offer and maintain at least as many
 21 grant-in-aid opportunities and roster spots for non-
 22 revenue generating intercollegiate sports programs,
 23 including women’s and Olympic intercollegiate sports
 24 programs, during each academic year as the member

1 institution provided during the 2024–2025 academic
2 year.

3 “(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sub-
4 section, the term ‘non-revenue generating intercolle-
5 giate sports program’ means an intercollegiate
6 sports program at an institution for which, during
7 an academic year, the revenues generated specifically
8 attributable to that sports program are less than the
9 direct and allocated operating expenses of that
10 sports program.

11 “(f) CONTRIBUTION OF MEDIA RIGHTS.—

12 “(1) CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION.—The cov-
13 ered entity shall require each member institution or
14 member conference, as a condition of receiving a dis-
15 tribution of collective media rights revenue from the
16 covered entity, to contribute to the covered entity,
17 for sale by the covered entity, the media rights of
18 the member institution or member conference, deter-
19 mined by a vote described in subsection (c)(2)(D),
20 with the exception of the rights in the sponsored
21 telecasting of—

22 “(A) the basketball tournaments organized
23 by the National Collegiate Athletic Association;
24 and

1 “(B) all postseason intercollegiate athletic
 2 competitions for intercollegiate football within
 3 the College Football Playoff for the Football
 4 Bowl Subdivision occurring before August 1,
 5 2032.

6 “(2) EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY.—The covered en-
 7 tity shall have the exclusive authority to negotiate,
 8 sell, license, sublicense, and otherwise transfer on a
 9 pooled basis media rights contributed under para-
 10 graph (1), with the exception of the rights in the
 11 sponsored telecasting of—

12 “(A) the basketball tournaments organized
 13 by the National Collegiate Athletic Association;
 14 and

15 “(B) all postseason intercollegiate athletic
 16 competitions for intercollegiate football within
 17 the College Football Playoff for the Football
 18 Bowl Subdivision occurring before August 1,
 19 2032.

20 “(3) RELATION TO CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS, OB-
 21 LIGATIONS, AND REMEDIES.—

22 “(A) CONTRIBUTION OF MEDIA RIGHTS.—
 23 Notwithstanding paragraph (1), no member in-
 24 stitution or member conference shall contribute
 25 to the covered entity any media rights, that, at

the time of contribution, the member institution or member conference is not legally entitled to contribute by reason of an existing contract, including an amendment to such contract, that restricts the assignment, transfer, license, or other conveyance of such media rights.

“(B) PROTECTION OF CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS, AND REMEDIES.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to eliminate, limit, modify, or otherwise affect any right, obligation, or remedy of any party under an existing contract.

“(4) BINDING AGREEMENT.—The covered entity shall maintain a written agreement, binding on all member institutions or member conferences, that governs the collection and distribution of collective media rights revenue for the duration of the agreement.

“(5) PRESERVATION OF CARRIAGE, DISTRIBUTION, AND PROMOTION OF WOMEN’S AND OLYMPIC SPORTS.—In any joint agreement entered into by a covered entity which includes media rights in football or basketball conveyed pursuant to a vote described in subsection (c)(2)(D), the covered entity shall take reasonable efforts to promote and dis-

1 tribute the media rights for non-revenue generating
 2 intercollegiate sports programs in the regular season
 3 and post-season, as well as preserve the current lev-
 4 els of carriage, distribution, and promotion.

5 “(g) PRESERVATION OF CONFERENCE OPPONENTS
 6 AND TRADITIONAL RIVALRIES.—

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

19 “(2) TRADITIONAL RIVALRIES.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If, as of the date of
 21 enactment of the Protect College Sports Act of
 22 2026, more than 2 of the top 10 historic oppo-
 23 nents in intercollegiate football of a member in-
 24 stitution were out-of-conference opponents of
 25 the member institution in intercollegiate foot-

1 ball during the most recently completed season,
 2 the covered entity shall require the member in-
 3 stitution to play intercollegiate athletic competi-
 4 tions within intercollegiate football that con-
 5 stitute traditional rivalries, and ensure that—

6 “(i) the member institution plays not
 7 fewer than 2 intercollegiate athletic com-
 8 petitions within intercollegiate football that
 9 constitute a traditional rivalry every 4
 10 years; and

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

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

1 clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) to the
2 extent practicable.

3 “(C) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this
4 paragraph shall be construed to affect the abil-
5 ity of a member institution to engage in inter-
6 collegiate athletic competitions within intercolle-
7 giate football against any other member institu-
8 tion within the same conference that was 1 of
9 the top 10 historic opponents in intercollegiate
10 football of the member institution as of the date
11 of enactment of the Protect College Sports Act
12 of 2026.

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

18 “(A) may review the effects of the require-
19 ments under this subsection on fan interest,
20 student athletes, media revenues, and preserva-
21 tion of traditional rivalries and historic oppo-
22 nents; and

23 “(B) may modify the requirements under
24 this subsection.

1 “(4) NO EFFECT ON CONFERENCES AND INSTI-
 2 TUTIONS OUTSIDE COVERED ENTITY.—Nothing in
 3 this subsection requires any conference or institution
 4 that is not in the covered entity to schedule an inter-
 5 collegiate athletic competition against any other in-
 6 stitution, regardless of whether such an intercolle-
 7 giate athletic competition is a traditional rivalry.

8 “(h) ENFORCEMENT OF THE ACT; RIGHT TO
 9 CURE.—

10 “(1) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Subject to
 11 paragraph (2), a person aggrieved by a violation of
 12 section 1(b), this section, section 6, or section 7, in-
 13 cluding a party to a joint agreement to form the cov-
 14 ered entity, may bring a civil action against the cov-
 15 ered entity in an appropriate district court of the
 16 United States.

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

21 “(A) not later than 1 year before bringing
 22 the civil action, the person provides to the de-
 23 fendant specific notice of the violation and an
 24 opportunity to cure the violation; and

1 “(B) the defendant does not cure the viola-
 2 tion during the 1-year period beginning on the
 3 date of the notice described in subparagraph
 4 (A).

5 “(i) PARTICIPATION IN COVERED ENTITY OP-
 6 TIONAL.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act shall,
 8 under Federal or State law, establish or be con-
 9 strued to require, mandate, or encourage any insti-
 10 tution or conference to join, participate in, or trans-
 11 fer any media rights to the covered entity or to cre-
 12 ate or give rise to any duty, obligation, or standard
 13 of care to take such action.

14 “(2) EFFECT ON LIABILITY.—Nothing in this
 15 Act, any amendments made by this Act, or a deci-
 16 sion by an institution or conference to decline to join
 17 or participate in the covered entity may be used to
 18 support any claim, cause of action, or theory of li-
 19 ability under Federal or State law that would impose
 20 liability on an institution or conference or compel an
 21 institution or conference to join or participate in the
 22 covered entity.

23 “(3) NO ABROGATION OF EXISTING CON-
 24 TRACTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed
 25 to abrogate, terminate, or modify a contract or other

1 legally enforceable agreement in effect on the date of
 2 enactment of the Protect College Sports Act of
 3 2026, or to provide a defense to or immunity from
 4 a claim arising from breach or nonperformance of
 5 such contract or legally enforceable agreement.

6 “(4) NO LIABILITY FOR DECLINING TO PAR-
 7 TICIPATE IN COVERED ENTITY.—Nothing in this Act
 8 shall be construed to permit a person to bring an ac-
 9 tion under Federal or State law to challenge a deci-
 10 sion by an institution or conference to not join or
 11 participate in the covered entity.”.

12 **SEC. 204. MARKET LEVEL BROADCAST ACCESS FOR COL-**
 13 **LEGE FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL.**

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

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

19 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

24 “(2) LOCAL DESIGNATED MARKET AREA.—

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

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

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

19 “(B) PUBLICATION OF LIST.—The Federal
20 Communications Commission shall—

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(3) NO EFFECT ON NATIONAL MEDIA AGREE-
24 MENTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall limit the

1 covered entity's ability to negotiate nationwide or re-
 2 gional media agreements.

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

10 “(c) GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATION.—

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

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

20 **SEC. 205. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN CONFERENCE MERG-**
 21 **ERS OR ACQUISITION.**

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

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

3 “(a) VIOLATION OF ANTITRUST LAWS.—It shall be
 4 unlawful under the antitrust laws, as defined in section
 5 1(a), for—

6 “(1) any covered conference that reported more
 7 than \$700,000,000 in revenue on its fiscal year
 8 2025 tax return or any subsequent tax return to—

9 “(A) merge or consolidate with, or acquire
 10 the assets or media rights of, another covered
 11 conference or a covered institution, if as a re-
 12 sult of the transaction, the number of institu-
 13 tions that are members of the covered con-
 14 ference would be less than 75 percent of the in-
 15 stitutions participating in the Football Bowl
 16 Subdivision, as defined by Bylaw 20.9.9 of the
 17 National Collegiate Athletic Association; or

18 “(B) acquire the assets or media rights of
 19 an institution that is not a covered institution,
 20 unless, as a result of the transaction, the num-
 21 ber of institutions that are members of the cov-
 22 ered conference does not exceed 20 institutions;
 23 or

24 “(2) any entity to merge with, acquire, or con-
 25 solidate the assets or media rights of a covered insti-
 26 tution, or multiple covered institutions, for the pur-

1 pose of creating a new conference or intercollegiate
2 athletic association.

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

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

9 “(d) NO IMPACT ON COVERED ENTITY.—Nothing in
10 this section shall be construed to prohibit the creation of
11 the covered entity under section 5.

12 “(e) APPLICABILITY.—Nothing in subsection (a)
13 shall be construed to apply to a covered conference that—

14 “(1) is in existence on the date of enactment of
15 this section or a subsidiary of such covered con-
16 ference; and

17 “(2) has not reported more than \$700,000,000
18 on its fiscal year 2025 tax return or any subsequent
19 tax return.

20 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) COVERED CONFERENCE.—The term ‘cov-
22 ered conference’ means a conference, the primary
23 athletic revenue of which is derived from the sale or
24 transfer of media rights relating to intercollegiate
25 football.

1 “(2) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term ‘cov-
2 ered institution’—

3 “(A) for purposes of subsection (a)(1)—

4 “(i) during the 6-year period begin-
5 ning on the date of enactment of the Pro-
6 tect College Sports Act of 2026, means an
7 institution that has, at least once in the
8 preceding 3 years, competed in intercolle-
9 giate football as a member of a covered
10 conference that reported more than
11 \$700,000,000 in revenue on its fiscal year
12 2025 tax return or any subsequent tax re-
13 turn; and

14 “(ii) after the termination of the pe-
15 riod described in clause (i), means an insti-
16 tution that, as of the day before the date
17 of a transaction described in subsection
18 (a)(1), competes in intercollegiate football
19 as a member of a covered conference that
20 reported more than \$700,000,000 in rev-
21 enue on its fiscal year 2025 tax return or
22 any subsequent tax return; and

23 “(B) for purposes of subsection (a)(2),
24 means an institution that has, at least once in
25 the preceding 5 years, competed in intercolle-

1 giate football as a member of a covered con-
 2 ference that reported more than \$700,000,000
 3 in revenue on its fiscal year 2025 tax return or
 4 any subsequent tax return.”.

5 **SEC. 206. AMENDMENTS TO INTERCOLLEGIATE AND INTER-**
 6 **SCHOLASTIC FOOTBALL CONTEST LIMITA-**
 7 **TIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Sports Broad-
 9 casting Act of 1961 (15 U.S.C. 1293) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
 11 end;

12 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
 13 the end and inserting “, and”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following:

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

19 (b) PROTECTION OF ARMY-NAVY GAME.—Section 3
 20 of the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 (15 U.S.C. 1293)
 21 is amended—

22 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “The first sen-
 23 tence”; and

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

1 “(b)(1) Section 1(b) shall not apply to any joint
 2 agreement described in that section that permits any per-
 3 son to sponsor, telecast, or authorize the telecast of any
 4 postseason intercollegiate football contest involving an in-
 5 stitution participating in the Football Bowl Subdivision
 6 during the protected Army-Navy Game broadcast window.

7 “(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘pro-
 8 tected Army-Navy Game broadcast window’ means the pe-
 9 riod beginning 1 hour before scheduled kickoff and ending
 10 30 minutes after the official conclusion of the telecast of
 11 the annual football game between the United States Mili-
 12 tary Academy and the United States Naval Academy oc-
 13 curring on the second Saturday in December in any
 14 year.”.

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

18 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “cov-
 19 ered entity”, “intercollegiate athletic competition”, “mem-
 20 ber conference”, and “member institution” have the mean-
 21 ings given those terms in section 8 of the Sports Broad-
 22 casting Act of 1961, as redesignated by section 201(b)(1)
 23 of this Act.

24 (b) REQUIREMENT OF USE.—A distributor to which
 25 any media rights for intercollegiate athletic competitions

1 in a sport other than football or basketball are sold, li-
 2 censed, or otherwise conveyed by the covered entity or its
 3 member institutions or member conferences after the date
 4 of enactment of this Act shall affirmatively use those
 5 rights by making the competitions reasonably available to
 6 the public not later than 1 year after the effective date
 7 of the agreement under which the rights are sold, licensed,
 8 or otherwise conveyed.

9 (c) REVERSION OF RIGHTS.—

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

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

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

10 **TITLE III—HBCU SPORTS MEDIA** 11 **AND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM**

12 **SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.**

13 This title may be cited as the “HBCU Sports Media
 14 and Connectivity Program”.

15 **SEC. 302. GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF BROADBAND,** 16 **TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA, AND SPORTS BROAD-** 17 **CAST INFRASTRUCTURE OF HBCUS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—

19 (1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Assistant Sec-
 20 retary, in consultation with the Secretary, shall
 21 award grants to eligible entities, on a competitive
 22 basis, to support long-term improvements to
 23 broadband, information technology, media infra-
 24 structure, including infrastructure for the produc-
 25 tion, transmission, and distribution of live coverage

1 of intercollegiate athletic events, and local jour-
 2 nalism for student learning.

3 (2) GRANT PERIOD.—With respect to each eligi-
 4 ble entity that is awarded a grant under this section,
 5 such grant shall be for a period determined appro-
 6 priate by the Assistant Secretary based on the infor-
 7 mation submitted by such entity under subsection
 8 (b) that is not less than 2 years and not more than
 9 5 years.

10 (3) MULTIPLE GRANTS PERMITTED.—An eligi-
 11 ble entity may apply for, and be awarded, more than
 12 1 grant under this section.

13 (b) APPLICATION.—To be considered for a grant
 14 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
 15 cation to the Assistant Secretary that includes—

16 (1) to the extent possible, the information nec-
 17 essary for the Assistant Secretary, in consultation
 18 with the Secretary, to make the determinations
 19 under subsection (c);

20 (2) a description of the projects that such eligi-
 21 ble entity plans to carry out with the grant and how
 22 such projects will advance the long-term goals of the
 23 entity;

24 (3) an assessment of the broadband service
 25 available on the campus of the eligible entity, and to

1 the students of the eligible entity, as of the date of
2 the application;

3 (4) an explanation of—

4 (A) how such investments in broadband,
5 information technology, and media production,
6 including sports media and live coverage of
7 intercollegiate athletic events, and local jour-
8 nalism at such eligible entity will promote and
9 advance educational opportunities; and

10 (B) the anticipated number of years that
11 any facilities constructed, improved, or replaced
12 under such projects may be used to facilitate
13 the opportunities and investments described in
14 subparagraph (A);

15 (5) the median age of the facilities that such
16 entity plans to improve or replace under such
17 projects, if existing and applicable;

18 (6) if the eligible entity proposes a project de-
19 scribed in paragraph (2) or (4) of section 303(a), a
20 description of how the project will expand the capac-
21 ity of the eligible entity to produce, transmit, or dis-
22 tribute live coverage of intercollegiate athletic events,
23 including events in women's sports and Olympic
24 sports, and, as applicable, to make such live cov-

1 erage available in the local market of the entity as
 2 well as for digital distribution; and

3 (7) if relevant to the application—

4 (A) baseline measurements as of the date
 5 of the application, in the form prescribed by the
 6 Assistant Secretary, of—

7 (i) available network capacity and av-
 8 erage and peak utilization over the pre-
 9 ceding 12 months; and

10 (ii) the number and percentage of en-
 11 rolled students who lack access to
 12 broadband, and the methodology used to
 13 determine that figure; and

14 (B) for each baseline measurement sub-
 15 mitted under subparagraph (A), a specific, nu-
 16 merical target the entity commits to achieve by
 17 the end of the grant period, and the date by
 18 which each target will be met.

19 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
 20 tion, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
 21 retary—

22 (1) shall give priority to an eligible entity
 23 that—

24 (A) demonstrates the greatest need to im-
 25 prove campus broadband and information tech-

nology infrastructure, as determined by a comparison of factors identified by the Assistant Secretary, which may include—

(i) the availability, capacity, and condition of broadband service and network infrastructure on the campus of the eligible entity;

(ii) the median age of the network and information technology infrastructure that the entity will use grant funds to improve;

(iii) the extent to which student enrollment and instructional demands exceed existing network capacity; and

(iv) the total amount of deferred maintenance of the network and information technology infrastructure of the entity;

(B) demonstrates the most limited capacity to raise funds for the long-term improvement of campus broadband and information technology infrastructure, as determined by an assessment of—

(i) the current and historic ability of the eligible entity to raise funds for con-

struction, renovation, modernization, and
major repair projects for campus;

(ii) whether the eligible entity has
been able to issue bonds or receive other
funds to support school construction
projects;

(iii) the bond rating of the eligible en-
tity;

(iv) the number of students enrolled
as of the date on which the application is
submitted;

(v) the total value of the endowment
of the eligible entity as of the date on
which the application is submitted;

(vi) the total amount of deferred
maintenance of such infrastructure; and

(vii) the amount and sources of insti-
tutional revenue;

(C) enrolls the highest percentages of stu-
dents who are eligible to receive a Federal Pell
Grant under subpart 1 of part A of title IV of
the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
1070a et seq.), and whose families qualify for
other Federal need-based aid;

(D) is a public institution that—

1 (i) faces declining State support or in-
 2 vestment; and

3 (ii) demonstrates limited ability to
 4 generate revenue, as determined by assess-
 5 ing—

6 (I) the total value of the endow-
 7 ment of the institution as of the date
 8 on which the application is submitted;
 9 and

10 (II) the costs of the deferred
 11 maintenance of the institution relative
 12 to the total revenue of the institution;

13 (E) demonstrates an effort to seek support
 14 from public and private entities for projects
 15 carried out with a grant awarded under this
 16 title; and

17 (F) proposes a project with the lowest total
 18 cost per student projected to be served, taking
 19 into account short-term and long-term costs of
 20 the project, cost differentials between geo-
 21 graphical regions, and other key cost drivers
 22 over the lifetime of the project, and dem-
 23 onstrates how those factors contribute to overall
 24 cost efficiency; and

25 (2) may give priority to an eligible entity—

1 (A) that did not receive a grant under this
2 title in the preceding fiscal year;

3 (B) that proposes projects aligned with
4 long-term infrastructure priorities that—

5 (i) serve as regional models, as deter-
6 mined by the Secretary;

7 (ii) address multiple needs on the
8 campus of the entity; or

9 (iii) address the needs of at least 1 el-
10 igible entity in addition to the entity re-
11 ceiving the grant;

12 (C) that is a member of an HBCU athletic
13 conference;

14 (D) that commits to using the facilities
15 and equipment funded under the grant to
16 produce or distribute live coverage of intercolle-
17 giate athletic events in women's sports and
18 Olympic sports; or

19 (E) that has entered into, or demonstrates
20 plans to enter into, a partnership, licensing ar-
21 rangement, or distribution agreement with a
22 covered entity, a conference, an intercollegiate
23 athletic association, or a video programming
24 distributor with respect to media rights to

1 intercollegiate athletic events of the eligible en-
2 tity.

3 (d) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In evaluating ap-
4 plications receiving equivalent scores under the criteria
5 published under subsection (f)(2), the Assistant Secretary
6 may consider the geographic distribution of eligible enti-
7 ties in the United States.

8 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Assistant Sec-
9 retary, in consultation with the Secretary, shall provide
10 technical assistance to eligible entities to prepare the enti-
11 ties to qualify for, apply for, and maintain a grant under
12 this title.

13 (f) PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY.—

14 (1) PUBLIC INPUT.—Not later than 120 days
15 after the date on which amounts are first appro-
16 priated to carry out this title, the Assistant Sec-
17 retary shall publish in the Federal Register a re-
18 quest for public comment on the design and admin-
19 istration of the grant program under this title, with
20 a comment period of not less than 45 days.

21 (2) PROGRAM GUIDANCE.—Not later than 120
22 days after the close of the comment period under
23 paragraph (1), and before accepting any application,
24 the Assistant Secretary shall publish—

1 (A) guidance for the grant program under
2 this title, including all application requirements;

3 (B) the criteria the Assistant Secretary
4 will use to evaluate applications, including the
5 numerical weight assigned to each criterion;
6 and

7 (C) the process and timeline for awarding
8 grants.

9 (3) NO POST HOC CHANGES.—The Assistant
10 Secretary shall endeavor to evaluate an application
11 on the basis of the criteria and weights published
12 under paragraph (2) that were in effect on the date
13 on which the application window opened.

14 (4) PUBLICATION OF SCORES.—Not later than
15 30 days after awarding grants for a fiscal year, the
16 Assistant Secretary shall make available to the ap-
17 propriate congressional committees, for each grant
18 awarded, the name of the recipient, the amount of
19 the grant, and the score assigned to the recipient's
20 application under each criterion published under
21 paragraph (2).

22 **SEC. 303. GRANT USES.**

23 (a) PERMITTED USES.—Except as provided in sub-
24 section (c), an eligible entity that receives a grant under

1 this title shall use the grant funds to carry out at least
2 one of the following activities:

3 (1)(A) Install, upgrade, or extend the life of—

4 (i) high-speed broadband internet infra-
5 structure sufficient to support digital and tech-
6 nology-based learning, except that no funds
7 may be used for broadband infrastructure de-
8 ployment to any location that is already served
9 by qualifying broadband service or is subject to
10 enforceable deployment obligations, as deter-
11 mined by the Assistant Secretary;

12 (ii) campus-wide broadband networks, in-
13 cluding adjacent infrastructure and 5G and fu-
14 ture network generations; and

15 (iii) other broadband infrastructure that
16 provides support for teaching, learning and re-
17 search.

18 (B) Modernize, renovate, or retrofit campus fa-
19 cilities, including preserving facilities with historic
20 significance, to facilitate projects under this para-
21 graph.

22 (2)(A) Construct, install, maintain, or facili-
23 tate—

24 (i) equipment or infrastructure used for
25 training and education in digital media produc-

1 tion and distribution facilities, including tools
 2 and equipment that support instruction in tele-
 3 vision or radio broadcasting on stations located
 4 on the campus of or affiliated with the eligible
 5 entity; and

6 (ii) facilities, equipment, or services for the
 7 studio of digital media production or production
 8 for television or radio broadcast stations located
 9 on the campus of or affiliated with the eligible
 10 entity.

11 (B) Support technology, broadcast engineering,
 12 and journalism instruction through existing courses
 13 and supervised training programs that are—

14 (i) operated by or affiliated with the eligi-
 15 ble entity; and

16 (ii) used primarily for instructional and ex-
 17 periential learning purposes.

18 (3) Establish new, or improve existing, labora-
 19 tories or research facilities relating to the fields of
 20 communications technology, broadcast engineering,
 21 media, journalism, and other disciplines, as deter-
 22 mined by the Assistant Secretary in consultation
 23 with the Secretary.

24 (4) Construct, install, upgrade, or operate—

1 (A) media production facilities, including
2 production control rooms, master control facili-
3 ties, and mobile or remote production units, for
4 the coverage of intercollegiate athletic events;

5 (B) cameras, replay, graphics, audio, and
6 other production equipment, and transmission
7 infrastructure, including fiber, satellite, and
8 internet protocol transmission, sufficient to
9 produce live coverage of intercollegiate athletic
10 events at the technical standards of national
11 and regional video programming distributors;

12 (C) streaming and digital distribution in-
13 frastructure enabling the eligible entity to dis-
14 tribute live coverage of intercollegiate athletic
15 events directly to the public, including in the
16 local market of the eligible entity; and

17 (D) programs that train students of the el-
18 igible entity in sports programming, including
19 coverage, production, distribution, and all other
20 aspects of media operations, integrated where
21 practicable with the journalism and media pro-
22 grams of the entity.

23 (b) ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.—An eligible entity
24 that receives a grant under this title may use the grant
25 funds to—

1 (1) purchase or lease eligible equipment, exclud-
2 ing personal devices, for shared instructional and re-
3 search use by students, faculty, and other designated
4 instructional and research personnel of the eligible
5 entity, provided that equipment is relevant to uses
6 described in subsection (a);

7 (2) establish, expand, or operate information
8 technology and network operations capacity, includ-
9 ing hiring and training information technology per-
10 sonnel to support student learning;

11 (3) strengthen the cybersecurity posture of the
12 networks and information systems of the eligible en-
13 tity, including through network monitoring, endpoint
14 protection, and cybersecurity workforce training to
15 support student learning;

16 (4) provide digital skills and relevant occupa-
17 tional training to students;

18 (5) subscribe to broadband internet access serv-
19 ice, for each eligible student through a single
20 broadband connection that provides sufficient speed,
21 reliability, and data capacity to support online learn-
22 ing for enrolled students of the eligible entity who
23 individually demonstrate financial need through in-
24 formation submitted through the Free Application
25 for Federal Student Aid (commonly known as the

1 “FAFSA”) and lack access to broadband for learn-
 2 ing; or

3 (6) acquire and install research-related equip-
 4 ment and technology in the campus facilities of the
 5 eligible entity related to telecommunications, jour-
 6 nalism, media, and cybersecurity.

7 (c) PROHIBITED USES.—An eligible entity that re-
 8 ceives a grant under this title may not use the grant funds
 9 for—

10 (1) payment of routine and predictable mainte-
 11 nance costs or minor repairs;

12 (2) the purchase or support of any communica-
 13 tions equipment or service (as defined in section 9
 14 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Net-
 15 works Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1608)) that poses a
 16 risk to national security;

17 (3) activities that are funded, in whole or in
 18 part, under part B of title III of the Higher Edu-
 19 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1060 et seq.), unless
 20 the Secretary approves such use;

21 (4) last-mile deployment of broadband service
 22 to a campus of an eligible entity—

23 (A) that already has access to broadband
 24 service at a download speed of not less than 1

1 gigabit per second at the eligible entity's pri-
 2 mary network aggregation point; or

3 (B) where there is a legally enforceable ob-
 4 ligation to deploy broadband service at the
 5 speed described in subparagraph (A); or

6 (5) technology whose primary purpose is fund-
 7 raising or the conduct of ceremonial events.

8 (d) ENCOURAGING PARTNERSHIPS.—The Assistant
 9 Secretary and the Secretary shall encourage partnerships
 10 between eligible entities and public and private entities
 11 to—

12 (1) provide funding in addition to the grants
 13 provided under this title; and

14 (2) assist in carrying out the activities funded
 15 by grants awarded under this title.

16 **SEC. 304. COORDINATION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this title, the As-
 18 sistant Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary, shall
 19 coordinate with the following entities to ensure efficient
 20 administration, avoid duplication of funding and efforts,
 21 and maximize student achievement:

22 (1) The Federal Communications Commission,
 23 including with respect to—

1 (A) the E-Rate program set forth in sub-
2 part F of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal
3 Regulations;

4 (B) broadband availability data collected
5 under title VIII of the Communications Act of
6 1934 (47 U.S.C. 641 et seq.);

7 (C) the broadcast licensing of noncommer-
8 cial educational broadcast stations operated by
9 eligible entities; and

10 (D) the local broadcast availability of
11 intercollegiate athletic events.

12 (2) State broadband offices, with respect to
13 funds made available under the Broadband Equity,
14 Access, and Deployment Program established under
15 section 60102 of the Infrastructure Investment and
16 Jobs Act (47 U.S.C. 1702).

17 (3) Other Federal agencies, including the De-
18 partment of Agriculture, that fund Federal
19 broadband deployment programs.

20 (4) Intercollegiate athletic associations and any
21 covered entity, with respect to production standards,
22 media rights, and distribution arrangements relevant
23 to projects funded under this title.

24 (5) The Director of the Office of Minority
25 Broadband Initiatives.

1 (b) STREAMLINED APPLICATIONS.—The Assistant
2 Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, align the appli-
3 cation requirements under this title with the requirements
4 of other Federal broadband programs in order to reduce
5 administrative burdens on eligible entities.

6 (c) NONDUPLICATION.—In carrying out coordination
7 activities under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary
8 shall ensure that any grant or other funds provided under
9 this title avoid duplication with a project that has received
10 Federal funds from a Federal entity described in that sub-
11 section.

12 **SEC. 305. REPORTS AND EVALUATION.**

13 (a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
15 the first award of a grant under this title, and annu-
16 ally thereafter, the Assistant Secretary, in consulta-
17 tion with the Secretary, shall submit to the appro-
18 priate congressional committees a report on the
19 projects carried out with grant funds awarded under
20 this title.

21 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
22 paragraph (1) shall include—

23 (A) with respect to projects carried out by
24 eligible entities with grant funds awarded under
25 this title, an assessment of—

1 (i) the types of such projects;
2 (ii) the total cost of each such project;
3 (iii) the geographic distribution of
4 such projects; and

5 (iv) the demographic and socio-
6 economic composition of the student popu-
7 lation served by such projects;

8 (B) an evaluation of a sample of grant re-
9 cipients, selected by the Assistant Secretary
10 taking into account size and geographic location
11 of each grantee, to determine how such recipi-
12 ents are using the grant and the effectiveness
13 of the activities carried out with the grant in
14 improving student achievement;

15 (C) with respect to projects described in
16 paragraphs (2) and (4) of section 303(a), the
17 number of intercollegiate athletic events and
18 other campus media productions produced,
19 transmitted, or distributed using facilities or
20 equipment funded under this title,
21 disaggregated by sport and including events in
22 women's sports and Olympic sports; and

23 (D) the number of students receiving
24 training in journalism, broadcasting, or media
25 production supported under this title.

1 (b) GRANTEE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not
 2 later than 90 days after the end of the grant period for
 3 a grant awarded under this title, the grantee shall submit
 4 to the Assistant Secretary a final report that—

5 (1) describes the use of grant funds, the status
 6 of each funded asset, and the grantee’s performance
 7 against each target submitted under section
 8 302(b)(7)(B); and

9 (2) meets any additional requirements estab-
 10 lished by the Assistant Secretary in accordance with
 11 part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations.

12 (c) MEASURES OF USAGE AND ENGAGEMENT.—De-
 13 vice utilization, log-in counts, bandwidth consumed, plat-
 14 form hours, or any other measure of usage or engagement
 15 may not be—

16 (1) used to fully satisfy any performance metric
 17 under this title; or

18 (2) reported as evidence of the effectiveness of
 19 a program carried out using grant funds awarded
 20 under this title.

21 **SEC. 306. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this title:

23 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
 24 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
 25 mittees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
2 and Transportation of the Senate;

3 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,
4 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

5 (C) the Committee on Education and
6 Workforce of the House of Representatives; and

7 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
8 merce of the House of Representatives.

9 (2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
10 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
11 Commerce for Telecommunications and Information.

12 (3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
13 tity” has the meaning given the term in the Act of
14 September 30, 1961 (commonly known as the
15 “Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961”) (15 U.S.C.
16 1291 et seq.), as amended by title II of this Act.

17 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
18 ty” means—

19 (A) a part B institution; or

20 (B) an institution or program listed under
21 section 326(e)(1) of the Higher Education Act
22 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1063b(e)(1)).

23 (5) HBCU ATHLETIC CONFERENCE.—The term
24 “HBCU athletic conference” means a conference the

1 membership of which consists predominantly of part
 2 B institutions.

3 (6) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION;
 4 CONFERENCE.—The terms “intercollegiate athletic
 5 association” and “conference” have the meanings
 6 given those terms in section 100 of this Act.

7 (7) PART B INSTITUTION.—The term “Part B
 8 institution” has the meaning given the term in sec-
 9 tion 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 10 U.S.C. 1061).

11 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 12 the Secretary of Education.

13 (9) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
 14 ing given the term in section 103 of the Higher
 15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

16 **SEC. 307. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 18 this title \$180,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
 19 through 2032.

Passed the Senate September 28, 2026.

Attest:

Secretary.

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 4668

AN ACT

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.