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119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4668

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 2, 2026

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

JUNE 24, 2026

Reported by Mr. CRUZ, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

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

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

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

TITLE II—SPORTS BROADCASTING

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

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

4 **SEC. 100. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this title:

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.

18 (2) **ASSOCIATED ENTITY.**—The term “associ-
 19 ated entity” means any individual or entity, includ-
 20 ing a collective, that is—

21 (A) known, or should have been known, to
 22 exist for or act for the benefit of, in coordina-
 23 tion with, or at the direction of an institution
 24 to promote or support an institution’s athletics
 25 program or student athletes, including by ere-

1 ating or identifying name, image, and likeness
2 compensation opportunities for an institution's
3 student athletes;

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

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

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

23 (E) an individual or entity owned, con-
24 trolled, or operated by, or otherwise affiliated

1 with the individuals or entities described in sub-
 2 paragraph (A).

3 ~~(3)~~ ATHLETE AGENT.—The term “athlete
 4 agent” has the meaning given that term in section
 5 2 of the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act
 6 (15 U.S.C. 7801).

7 ~~(4)~~ COLLECTIVE.—The term “collective”—

8 (A) means a person, corporation, booster
 9 organization, tax-exempt organization, or other
 10 entity that provides donations or other support
 11 directly or indirectly to or for the benefit or
 12 support of—

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

15 (ii) the intercollegiate athletics pro-
 16 gram or any booster organization of an in-
 17 stitution; and

18 ~~(B)~~ does not include—

19 (i) an immediate family member of a
 20 student athlete; or

21 (ii) an individual or entity that—

22 (I) licenses trademark rights of
 23 an institution; and

24 ~~(II)~~ does not—

1 (aa) license name, image,
2 and likeness rights of student
3 athletes; or

4 (bb) make payments ear-
5 marked or designated to fund
6 name, image, or likeness licenses
7 or other payments to student
8 athletes.

9 (5) COMPENSATION.—The term “compensa-
10 tion”—

11 (A) means any payment, remuneration, or
12 benefit provided to a student athlete or a pro-
13 spective student athlete; and

14 (B) does not include—

15 (i) grants-in-aid;

16 (ii) Federal Pell Grants provided
17 under section 401 of the Higher Education
18 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) or any
19 other Federal or State grants unrelated to
20 and not awarded with regard to participa-
21 tion in intercollegiate sports;

22 (iii) health insurance and the costs of
23 health care funded by an institution, inter-
24 collegiate athletic association, or con-
25 ference;

1 (iv) disability and loss-of-value insur-
2 ance, including disability and loss-of-value
3 insurance funded by an institution, inter-
4 collegiate athletic association, or con-
5 ference;

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

9 (vi) hourly wages and benefits for
10 work performed outside of participating in
11 intercollegiate sports at a rate commensu-
12 rate with the prevailing rate in the relevant
13 State or locality for similar work;

14 (vii) enhanced education benefits, in-
15 cluding academic awards;

16 (viii) financial literacy or tax edu-
17 cation resources; or

18 (ix) any program to connect student
19 athletes with employers and facilitate em-
20 ployment opportunities, if—

21 (I) the financial terms of such
22 employment opportunities are con-
23 sistent with the terms offered to simi-
24 larly situated employees who are not
25 student athletes; and

1 (H) such program is not used to
 2 induce a student athlete to attend a
 3 particular institution.

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

7 (A) has 2 or more institutions as members;
 8 and

9 (B) arranges championships for intercolle-
 10 giate athletic competitions or sets rules for
 11 intercollegiate athletic competition.

12 (7) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—The term “cost of
 13 attendance”—

14 (A) has the meaning given that term in
 15 section 472 of the Higher Education Act of
 16 1965 (20 U.S.C. 108711); and

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

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

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

(i) is paid or provided by an institution to a student for the undergraduate or graduate education of the student; and

(ii) is in an amount that does not exceed the cost of attendance for such student at the institution; and

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

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

(10) INSTITUTION.—Except as otherwise explicitly provided, the term “institution” has the meaning given the term “institution of higher education” under section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(11) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.—The term “intercollegiate athletic association”—

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

1 (i) sponsors or arranges intercollegiate
2 athletic competition between institutions;

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

7 (iii) is composed of 2 or more institu-
8 tions or conferences that are located in dif-
9 ferent States or participate in intercolle-
10 giate athletic competition in more than 1
11 State; and

12 (iv) is not a conference;

13 (B) includes—

14 (i) the National Collegiate Athletic
15 Association; and

16 (ii) any other national intercollegiate
17 athletic association; and

18 (C) does not include a corporation, associa-
19 tion, or other group affiliated with professional
20 athletic competition.

21 (12) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC COMPETI-
22 TION.—The term “intercollegiate athletic competi-
23 tion” means any intercollegiate sport contest, game,
24 meet, match, tournament, regatta, or other inter-

1 collegiate sport event in which student athletes or
 2 varsity sports teams compete.

3 (13) INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT.—The term
 4 “intercollegiate sport”—

5 (A) means a sport played between institu-
 6 tions for which eligibility requirements for par-
 7 ticipation by a student athlete are established
 8 by an interstate intercollegiate athletic associa-
 9 tion; and

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

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

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

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

21 (C) the jersey number associated with the
 22 student athlete during the period of athletic
 23 participation by the student athlete at an insti-
 24 tution if the jersey number is accompanied by—

- 1 (i) a logo or color scheme that is
 2 clearly associated with the institution; or
 3 (ii) some other means by which the
 4 jersey number is associated with the stu-
 5 dent athlete.

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

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

23 (17) NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS RIGHTS.—
 24 The term “name, image, and likeness rights” means
 25 the ability of a student athlete to market and profit

1 from the commercial use of his or her name, image,
2 or likeness.

3 ~~(18)~~ PROSPECTIVE STUDENT ATHLETE.—The
4 term “prospective student athlete” means an indi-
5 vidual who is recruited, actively being recruited, or
6 has been contacted for the purposes of recruitment
7 to attend an institution as a student athlete, but has
8 not yet enrolled at the institution.

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

17 ~~(20)~~ STUDENT ATHLETE.—The term “student
18 athlete” means an individual who is enrolled as a
19 full-time student at an institution and who—

20 (A) makes satisfactory progress towards
21 completing a degree; and

22 (B) participates in intercollegiate athletic
23 competition or competes for a varsity sports
24 team as part of the institution’s educational,
25 developmental, or extracurricular programs.

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—

16 ~~(A)~~ not later than 30 days after entering
 17 into a name, image, and likeness agreement,
 18 the terms of any such agreement that exceeds
 19 \$600 in value, including multiple payments, re-
 20 munerations, or benefits from the same entity
 21 that exceeds a total of \$600 over a 12-month
 22 period; and

23 ~~(B)~~ to the extent not reported under sub-
 24 paragraph ~~(A)~~; not later than 30 days after re-
 25 ceiving compensation for the name, image, or

likeness of the student athlete, the amount and source of any such compensation that exceeds \$600, including multiple payments, remunerations, or benefits from the same entity that exceeds a total of \$600 over a 12-month period.

~~(2)~~ MANDATORY DISCLOSURES BY RECRUITED ATHLETES.—With respect to a student athlete or prospective student athlete who is recruited to attend, but is not yet enrolled in, an institution, the student athlete or prospective student athlete shall report to the institution—

~~(A)~~ the terms of any current or ongoing name, image, and likeness agreement that exceeds \$600 in value, including multiple payments, remunerations, or benefits from the same entity that exceeds a total of \$600 over a 12-month period; and

~~(B)~~ to the extent not reported under subparagraph (A), the amount and source of any current or ongoing name, image, and likeness compensation that exceeds \$600, including multiple payments, remunerations, or benefits from the same person that exceeds a total of \$600 over a 12-month period.

~~(3)~~ EXCEPTION.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1) and (2)
 2 shall not apply to either marketing or earning
 3 compensation for the value of the name, image,
 4 and likeness rights of a student athlete or to
 5 the compensation within a name, image, and
 6 likeness agreement in which a student athlete
 7 receives less than \$600, including multiple pay-
 8 ments, remunerations, or benefits from the
 9 same person that totals less than \$600 over a
 10 12-month period.

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

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

1 athlete, athlete agent of the student athlete or pro-
 2 spective student athlete, or, in case of a minor, the
 3 parent or legal guardian of the minor.

4 (5) LIMITATION.—This subsection shall apply
 5 only to Division I institutions as defined by bylaw
 6 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association,
 7 or a successor bylaw, and student athletes or pro-
 8 spective student athletes of such institutions.

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

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

24 (e) EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES REGARDING THIS
 25 TITLE.—An intercollegiate athletic association shall pro-

1 vide student athletes and prospective student athletes and
 2 the parents or guardians of student athletes or prospective
 3 student athletes with educational materials relating to this
 4 title.

5 **SEC. 102. MODIFICATIONS TO SPORTS AGENT RESPONSIBILITY AND TRUST ACT.**
 6

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

9 (1) in section 2 (15 U.S.C. 7801)—

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

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

18 (C) by inserting after paragraph (5) the
 19 following:

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

24 (2) in section 3 (15 U.S.C. 7802)—

25 (A) in subsection (a)—

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

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

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
 7 lowing:

8 “(4) enter into an agency contract or represent
 9 a student athlete in a manner that violates section
 10 9;

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

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

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

1 enrollment or transfer to an institution (as defined in
2 section 100 of the Protect College Sports Act of
3 2026); or

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

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

13 (3) by inserting after section 5 (15 U.S.C.
14 7804) the following:

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

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

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

24 “(1) a declaratory judgment that a name,
25 image, or likeness agreement (as defined in section

1 100 of the Protect College Sports Act of 2026) or
 2 an agency contract, as applicable, is null and void;
 3 and

4 “(2) actual damages.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 “(1) The contract is in writing.

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

19 “(3) The contract contains—

20 “(A) a description of services rendered;

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

23 “(C) the terms of the contract;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Sec. 5A. Private right of action.”;

8 and

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

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

“Sec. 10. Endorsement contract requirements.”.

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

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

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

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

23 (b) ~~DECERTIFICATION PERMITTED.~~—

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

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

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

15 (a) ~~DISCLOSURES BY INSTITUTIONS.~~—

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

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

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

3 (i) a description of services rendered;

4 and

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

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

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

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

16 (iii) the total value of the agreements.

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

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

the amount of associated entity and third-party donations, Federal funds, and State funds, including the total amount of remuneration for personnel of each intercollegiate sports program, individually by program and in the aggregate.

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

(C) The academic outcomes and majors for student athletes, disaggregated by sports program.

(3) TREATMENT OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PROGRAMS.—An institution shall treat men's and women's sports programs as distinct sports programs for the purposes of disclosure and reporting obligations under this subsection.

(4) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—In making a disclosure under paragraph (1), an institution shall ensure that no personally identifiable information of a student athlete is transmitted to an intercollegiate athletic association.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 ~~(c) SCHOLARSHIP PROTECTIONS.—~~

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

(A) based on the athletic ability or performance of the student athlete or the contribution of the student athlete to the success of a varsity sports team;

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

(C) roster management decisions.

(2) EXCEPTION.—

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

(i) transfers to another institution; or

(ii) does not remain in good standing in accordance with—

(I) the standards or code of conduct of the institution applicable to all students;

(II) the established athletics program policies for participating in mandatory team athletic activities for a varsity sports team; or

(III) the academic standards for athletic eligibility.

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

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

14 ~~(D) FORMER STUDENT ATHLETES.~~—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 (d) ATHLETIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICERS.—

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

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

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

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

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

5 ~~(c)~~ INDEPENDENCE OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 (b) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 ~~(d)~~ CONFIDENTIALITY.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (i) shall be confidential; and

18 (ii) shall not be—

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

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

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

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

6 (c) INDEPENDENCE IN CARRYING OUT DUTIES.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

1 intercollegiate football for the institution during that
2 season.

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

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

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

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

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

24 ~~(a)~~ IN GENERAL.—Not less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the member-
25 ship and voting power of any board of directors or other

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

6 (b) LIMITATION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 ~~(1)~~ is a student athlete;

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

21 ~~(3)~~ is not a professional athlete; and

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

24 ~~(b)~~ YEARS OF ELIGIBILITY.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (A) Reasons of pregnancy.

19 (B) Religious mission.

20 (C) Active-duty military service.

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

25 (e) RESTRICTIONS ON ELIGIBILITY.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tion, a volunteer of an institution, a conference, an employee of a conference, or an associated entity shall not—

(1) except as provided in subsection (b), arrange, provide, offer, or permit, directly or indirectly, compensation in an amount that would circumvent or result in the institution exceeding the revenue share cap to—

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

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

(2) enter into a name, image, and likeness agreement with a student athlete or prospective student athlete that is not—

(A) for a valid business purpose; and

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

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

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

(1) reasonable costs of transportation and temporary lodging for family members of a student athlete while the student athlete is experiencing a documented physical or mental health concern or participating in an intercollegiate athletic competition;

(2) reasonable costs for meals, shelter, medical coverage, and medical expenses not provided or covered by the institution; and

(3) reasonable education-related financial benefits, such as institution fees, books, or other incidental educational expenses that are not otherwise provided by the institution.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House
of Representatives; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

(B) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

The co-chairs of the Commission shall appoint
an executive director of the Commission, and
such staff as appropriate, with compensation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 ~~(C) the President.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 their eligibility for intercollegiate athletic competition
2 that—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 ~~(1)~~ section 114;

23 ~~(2)~~ section 115;

24 ~~(3)~~ section 113;

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

3 ~~(5) section 117;~~

4 ~~(6) section 112;~~

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

11 ~~(8) section 103; and~~

12 ~~(9) section 110.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (2) Section 104.

8 (3) Section 105.

9 (4) Section 106.

10 (5) Section 107.

11 (6) Section 108.

12 (7) Section 109.

13 (8) Section 111.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 ~~(11)~~ Section 114(b).

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

21 ~~(c)~~ RELIEF.—

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

25 ~~(A)~~ actual damages; and

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

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

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

10 ~~(1) PRE-DISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREEMENT.—~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (f) NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR CIVIL ACTIONS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (b) ENFORCEMENT ACTION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (i) reinstatement with the same se-
 8 niority status that the individual would
 9 have had, but for the discrimination; and

10 (ii) backpay otherwise owed to the in-
 11 dividual, with interest.

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

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

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

24 ~~(2) PREDISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS.—~~

25 No predispute arbitration agreement shall be valid

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 ~~(1) Uniform Athlete Agent Acts.~~

4 ~~(2) Civil rights laws.~~

5 ~~(3) Tort law.~~

6 ~~(4) Criminal law.~~

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

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

16 ~~(7) Fraud.~~

17 ~~(8) Privacy or data breach.~~

18 ~~(9) Contract law.~~

19 ~~(10) Trademark law.~~

20 ~~(11) Copyright law.~~

21 ~~(12) Consumer protection law.~~

22 ~~(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—~~

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

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

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

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

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

12 **SEC. 123. APPLICABILITY.**

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

17 **SEC. 124. SEVERABILITY.**

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

TITLE II—SPORTS BROADCASTING

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

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

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

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

(2) in section 8, as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “As used in this Act, ‘persons’ means” and inserting the following: “As used in this Act.”

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

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

“(1) COLLECTIVE MEDIA RIGHTS REVENUE.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 “(iv) is not a conference;

9 “(B) includes—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (b) ~~TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—~~

8 The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is amended—

9 (1) in section 2 (15 U.S.C. 1292)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 **“(2) INVITATION REQUIREMENT.—**

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

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

8 “(c) VOTING RIGHTS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

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

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

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

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

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

4 “(B) VOTES OF STUDENT ATHLETES.—

5 The covered entity shall—

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

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

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

22 “(2) VOTING THRESHOLDS.—

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

1 ~~2/3~~ of the member conferences or member insti-
2 tutions exercising their voting rights.

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

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

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

24 ~~“(d) REVENUE ALLOCATION FORMULA.—~~

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

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

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

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

14 “(A) ensure that—

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

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

rights revenue (excluding revenue from the College Football Playoff) that the institution received in any single academic year during the period of academic year 2021–2022 through academic year 2024–2025;

“(B) distribute not less than 15 percent of the collective media rights revenue that remains after compliance with subparagraph (A) equally among all member institutions that received revenue from intercollegiate athletic competitions within intercollegiate football in the Football Bowl Subdivision during academic year 2024–2025; and

“(C) distribute the collective media rights revenue that remains after compliance with subparagraphs (A) and (B) to member institutions based on the performance of each institution during the academic year with respect to the institution’s contribution to the collective media rights revenue.

“(3) TRANSFER OF REVENUE.—Before distributing collective media rights revenue under paragraph (1), the covered entity shall, in accordance with section 106, transfer an amount of collective media rights revenue to the fund or program estab-

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

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

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

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

23 ~~“(f) CONTRIBUTION OF MEDIA RIGHTS.—~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 “(2) TRADITIONAL RIVALRIES.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 ~~“(a) DEFINITIONS.—~~In this section:

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

22 ~~“(2) LOCAL DESIGNATED MARKET AREA.—~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 “(e) GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (c) REVERSION OF RIGHTS.—

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

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

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

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

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

13 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “Pro-
 14 tect College Sports Act of 2026”.

15 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for
 16 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

**TITLE I—PROTECTIONS OF STUDENT ATHLETES AND FAIR
 COMPETITION**

Sec. 100. Definitions.

Sec. 101. Name, image, and likeness protections.

Sec. 102. Modifications to Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act.

Sec. 103. Agent registry requirements for intercollegiate athletic associations.

*Sec. 104. Disclosures and establishment of name, image, and likeness agreement
 database.*

Sec. 105. Academic protections.

Sec. 106. Medical coverage requirements.

Sec. 107. Health, wellness, and safety standards.

Sec. 108. Office of the Student Athlete Ombudsman.

Sec. 109. Comparable standards for access to facilities, services, and events.

Sec. 110. Rules governing certain mid-season coaching transitions.

*Sec. 111. Student athlete representation on intercollegiate athletic association
 governing boards.*

Sec. 112. Transfer protections.

Sec. 113. Eligibility to participate in intercollegiate sports.

- Sec. 114. Prohibited compensation and agreements.*
Sec. 115. Extension of the revenue share cap.
Sec. 116. Commission on the Future of College Athletics.
Sec. 117. Recruitment and tampering.
Sec. 118. Limitation on liability.
Sec. 119. Private right of action.
Sec. 120. Whistleblower protection.
Sec. 121. Relationship to existing law.
Sec. 122. Neutrality on employee or non-employee status.
Sec. 123. Applicability.
Sec. 124. Severability.
Sec. 125. Protection of women's sports and Olympic sports.
Sec. 126. Mid-sized conference representation on intercollegiate athletic association governing boards.

TITLE II—SPORTS BROADCASTING

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

1 TITLE I—PROTECTIONS OF STUDENT 2 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 section
8 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12) and includes—
9 (A) section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45) to the extent that such
10 section 5 applies to unfair methods of competi-
11 tion; and
12*

1 (B) any similar State antitrust law, includ-
2 ing a State law provision that applies to cov-
3 ering unfair methods of competition having the
4 force and effect of law.

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

8 (A) known, or should have been known, to
9 exist for or act for the benefit of, in coordination
10 with, or at the direction of an institution to pro-
11 mote or support an institution’s athletics pro-
12 gram or student athletes, including by creating
13 or identifying name, image, and likeness com-
14 pensation opportunities for an institution’s stu-
15 dent athletes;

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

20 (C) an individual or entity that directly or
21 indirectly (including contributions by an affili-
22 ated entity, individual, or family member) has
23 contributed more than \$50,000 over their lifetime
24 to a particular institution or to an individual or
25 entity described in subparagraph (A);

1 (D) an individual or entity that has di-
 2 rectly or indirectly been directed or requested by
 3 an institution or third party acting on behalf of,
 4 for the benefit of, in coordination with, or at the
 5 direction of an institution to assist in the re-
 6 cruitment or retention of student athletes or pro-
 7 spective student athletes, or otherwise has as-
 8 sisted in the recruitment or retention of student
 9 athletes or prospective student athletes; or

10 (E) an individual or entity owned, con-
 11 trolled, or operated by, or otherwise affiliated
 12 with the individuals or entities described in sub-
 13 paragraph (A).

14 (3) *ATHLETE AGENT*.—The term “athlete agent”
 15 has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the
 16 *Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act* (15 U.S.C.
 17 7801).

18 (4) *COLLECTIVE*.—The term “collective”—

19 (A) means a person, corporation, booster or-
 20 ganization, tax-exempt organization, or other en-
 21 tity that provides donations or other support di-
 22 rectly or indirectly to or for the benefit or sup-
 23 port of—

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

1 (ii) the intercollegiate athletics pro-
 2 gram or any booster organization of an in-
 3 stitution; and

4 (B) does not include—

5 (i) an immediate family member of a
 6 student athlete; or

7 (ii) an individual or entity that—

8 (I) licenses trademark rights of an
 9 institution; and

10 (II) does not—

11 (aa) license name, image,
 12 and likeness rights of student ath-
 13 letes; or

14 (bb) make payments ear-
 15 marked or designated to fund
 16 name, image, or likeness licenses
 17 or other payments to student ath-
 18 letes.

19 (5) COMPENSATION.—The term “compensa-
 20 tion”—

21 (A) means any payment, remuneration, or
 22 benefit provided to a student athlete or a pro-
 23 spective student athlete; and

24 (B) does not include—

25 (i) grants-in-aid;

1 (ii) *Federal Pell Grants provided*
2 *under section 401 of the Higher Education*
3 *Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) or any other*
4 *Federal or State grants unrelated to and*
5 *not awarded with regard to participation*
6 *in intercollegiate sports;*

7 (iii) *health insurance and the costs of*
8 *health care funded by an institution, inter-*
9 *collegiate athletic association, or conference;*

10 (iv) *disability and loss-of-value insur-*
11 *ance, including disability and loss-of-value*
12 *insurance funded by an institution, inter-*
13 *collegiate athletic association, or conference;*

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

17 (vi) *hourly wages and benefits for work*
18 *performed outside of participating in inter-*
19 *collegiate sports at a rate commensurate*
20 *with the prevailing rate in the relevant*
21 *State or locality for similar work;*

22 (vii) *enhanced education benefits, in-*
23 *cluding academic awards;*

24 (viii) *financial literacy or tax edu-*
25 *cation 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 em-*
 5 *ployment opportunities are consistent*
 6 *with the terms offered to similarly sit-*
 7 *uated employees who are not student*
 8 *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” means*
 13 *any organization that is not an intercollegiate ath-*
 14 *letic 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 inter-*
 19 *collegiate athletic competition.*

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

22 *(A) has the meaning given that term in sec-*
 23 *tion 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965*
 24 *(20 U.S.C. 1087l); 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 student
15 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 iden-
21 tifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linked to the stu-
22 dent athlete.

23 (10) INSTITUTION.—Except as otherwise explic-
24 itly provided, the term “institution” has the meaning
25 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, pro-*
 12 *cedures, or guidelines for the administration*
 13 *of intercollegiate athletic competition;*

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

19 (iv) *is not a conference;*

20 (B) *includes—*

21 (i) *the National Collegiate Athletic As-*
 22 *sociation; and*

23 (ii) *any other national intercollegiate*
 24 *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 intercolle-
 8 giate sport event in which student athletes or varsity
 9 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 by
 15 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 ath-
 19 lete, the term “likeness” means a physical or digital
 20 depiction or representation that identifies, is linked
 21 to, or is reasonably linked to the student athlete, in-
 22 cluding —

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 par-
5 ticipation by the student athlete at an institu-
6 tion if the jersey number is accompanied by—

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

9 (ii) some other means by which the jer-
10 sey number is associated with the student
11 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 assumed
15 name of the student athlete, or a username associated
16 with the student athlete on any public-facing internet
17 platform when used in a context that identifies, is
18 linked to, or is reasonably linked to the student ath-
19 lete.

20 (16) NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS AGREE-
21 MENT.—The term “name, image, and likeness agree-
22 ment” means a contract or similar agreement between
23 a student athlete (or group of student athletes) and a
24 conference, institution, intercollegiate athletic associa-
25 tion, associated entity, collective, or third party re-

1 *garding the commercial use of the name, image, and*
 2 *likeness rights of the student athlete (or group of stu-*
 3 *dent athletes).*

4 (17) *NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS RIGHTS.*—*The*
 5 *term “name, image, and likeness rights” means the*
 6 *ability of a student athlete to market and profit from*
 7 *the commercial use of his or her name, image, or like-*
 8 *ness.*

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 to*
 13 *attend an institution as a student athlete, but has not*
 14 *yet enrolled at the institution.*

15 (19) *REVENUE SHARE CAP.*—*The term “revenue*
 16 *share cap” means the Benefits Pool Limit set forth in*
 17 *the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agreement approved*
 18 *by the court in “In Re College Athlete NIL Litiga-*
 19 *tion”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025), or*
 20 *as modified pursuant to the amendment provision*
 21 *specified in paragraph 55 of that settlement.*

22 (20) *STUDENT ATHLETE.*—*The term “student*
 23 *athlete” means an individual who is enrolled as a*
 24 *full-time student at an institution and who—*

1 (A) *makes satisfactory progress towards*
 2 *completing a degree; and*

3 (B) *participates in intercollegiate athletic*
 4 *competition or competes for a varsity sports*
 5 *team as part of the institution’s educational, de-*
 6 *velopmental, or extracurricular programs.*

7 (21) *THIRD PARTY.—The term “third party”*
 8 *means an individual or entity that is not an institu-*
 9 *tion, associated entity, collective, conference, or inter-*
 10 *collegiate athletic association.*

11 (22) *VALID BUSINESS PURPOSE.—The term*
 12 *“valid business purpose” means a purpose genuinely*
 13 *related to the promotion of goods or services provided*
 14 *to the general public for profit.*

15 (23) *VARSITY SPORTS TEAM.—The term “varsity*
 16 *sports team” means a sports team composed of stu-*
 17 *dent athletes that is organized by an institution for*
 18 *the purpose of intercollegiate athletic competition.*

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

20 (a) *STUDENT ATHLETE NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS*
 21 *COMPENSATION.—*

22 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this*
 23 *title, an institution, conference, intercollegiate athletic*
 24 *association, or any representative of such an entity*
 25 *may not—*

1 (A) restrict the ability of a student athlete,
2 group of student athletes, or prospective student
3 athlete—

4 (i) to market or earn compensation for
5 the value of their name, image, or likeness
6 rights; or

7 (ii) to enter into a name, image, and
8 likeness agreement;

9 (B) restrict the eligibility for intercollegiate
10 athletic competition for a student athlete or pro-
11 spective student athlete on the basis of the stu-
12 dent athlete or prospective student athlete enter-
13 ing into a name, image, and likeness agreement
14 or marketing or earning compensation for the
15 value of their name, image, or likeness;

16 (C) unless otherwise required by law, limit
17 the eligibility or opportunity of a student athlete
18 or prospective student athlete to apply for or re-
19 ceive a grant-in-aid, including the amount, du-
20 ration, or renewal of such grant-in-aid, on the
21 basis of the student athlete or prospective student
22 athlete entering into a name, image, and likeness
23 agreement, or marketing or earning compensa-
24 tion for the value of their name, image, or like-
25 ness; or

(D) *unless otherwise required by law, revoke, reduce, or decline to renew a grant-in-aid for a student athlete or prospective student athlete based on the student athlete or prospective student athlete entering into a name, image, and likeness agreement or marketing or earning compensation for the value of their name, image, or likeness.*

(2) *CONSENT AND COMPENSATION FOR GROUP USE.—An institution, conference, intercollegiate athletic association, collective, third party, or any representative thereof, may not use the name, image, or likeness of any group of student athletes to sell or promote any product or service unless the institution, conference, athletic association, collective, or third party, as the case may be, obtains an agreement from each member of the group for that purpose.*

(3) *EXCEPTIONS.—*

(A) *CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.—An institution may restrict the eligibility for intercollegiate athletic competition of a student athlete or prospective student athlete who enters into a name, image, and likeness agreement that violates the code of student conduct of the institution that applies to all students enrolled at the 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 facility,*
 7 *uniform, equipment, registered or unregistered*
 8 *trademark, copyright-protected product, or the*
 9 *official logo, mark, or other indicia of the insti-*
 10 *tution without the express consent of the institu-*
 11 *tion.*

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

14 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*All student athletes shall re-*
 15 *port to their institution—*

16 (A) *not later than 5 days after entering into*
 17 *a name, image, and likeness agreement, the*
 18 *terms of any such agreement that exceeds \$600*
 19 *in value, including multiple payments, remu-*
 20 *nerations, or benefits from the same entity that*
 21 *exceeds a total of \$600 over a 12-month period;*
 22 *and*

23 (B) *to the extent not reported under sub-*
 24 *paragraph (A), not later than 30 days after re-*
 25 *ceiving compensation for the name, image, or*

likeness of the student athlete, the amount and source of any such compensation that exceeds \$600, including multiple payments, remunerations, or benefits from the same entity that exceeds a total of \$600 over a 12-month period.

(2) *MANDATORY DISCLOSURES BY RECRUITED ATHLETES.*—With respect to a student athlete or prospective student athlete who is recruited to attend, but is not yet enrolled in, an institution, the student athlete or prospective student athlete shall report to the institution—

(A) the terms of any current or ongoing name, image, and likeness agreement that exceeds \$600 in value, including multiple payments, remunerations, or benefits from the same entity that exceeds a total of \$600 over a 12-month period; and

(B) to the extent not reported under subparagraph (A), the amount and source of any current or ongoing name, image, and likeness compensation that exceeds \$600, including multiple payments, remunerations, or benefits from the same person that exceeds a total of \$600 over a 12-month period.

(3) *EXCEPTION.*—

1 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Paragraphs (1) and (2)*
2 *shall not apply to either marketing or earning*
3 *compensation for the value of the name, image,*
4 *and likeness rights of a student athlete or to the*
5 *compensation within a name, image, and like-*
6 *ness agreement in which a student athlete re-*
7 *ceives less than \$600, including multiple pay-*
8 *ments, remunerations, or benefits from the same*
9 *person that totals less than \$600 over a 12-*
10 *month period.*

11 (B) *ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.*—*The*
12 *amount described in clause (i) shall be adjusted*
13 *for inflation by the percent increase, if any, in*
14 *the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Con-*
15 *sumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statis-*
16 *tics of the Department of Labor for the most re-*
17 *cent 12-month period for which applicable data*
18 *is available.*

19 (4) *RELEASE OF INFORMATION.*—*Except as pro-*
20 *vided in section 104 or as necessary to comply with*
21 *this Act, an institution may not release any informa-*
22 *tion provided by a student athlete or prospective stu-*
23 *dent athlete in a disclosure under paragraph (1) or*
24 *(2) without the express written consent of the student*
25 *athlete, prospective student athlete, athlete agent of*

1 *the student athlete or prospective student athlete, or,*
 2 *in case of a minor, the parent or legal guardian of*
 3 *the minor.*

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

9 (c) *NAME, IMAGE, OR LIKENESS COMPENSATION BY*
 10 *INSTITUTIONS.*—*Subject to the requirements of this title, an*
 11 *institution, intercollegiate athletic association, conference,*
 12 *collective, associated entity, or third party, may pay, pro-*
 13 *vide, or facilitate compensation to a student athlete for the*
 14 *use of the name, image, or likeness of the student athlete.*

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

23 (e) *EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES REGARDING THIS*
 24 *TITLE.*—*An intercollegiate athletic association shall pro-*
 25 *vide student athletes and prospective student athletes and*

1 *the parents or guardians of student athletes or prospective*
 2 *student athletes with educational materials relating to this*
 3 *title.*

4 **SEC. 102. MODIFICATIONS TO SPORTS AGENT RESPONSIBILITY AND TRUST ACT.**

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

8 (1) *in section 2 (15 U.S.C. 7801)—*

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

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

17 (C) *by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-*
 18 *lowing:*

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

23 (2) *in section 3 (15 U.S.C. 7802)—*

24 (A) *in subsection (a)—*

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

3 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking the
4 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
5 and

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

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

10 “(5) charge a student athlete a fee in connection
11 with an endorsement contract that exceeds 5 percent
12 of the value of the endorsement contract;

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

17 “(7) make any materially false, deceptive, or
18 fraudulent representation as an athlete agent, includ-
19 ing any materially false, deceptive, or fraudulent
20 statement to a student athlete or prospective student
21 athlete that misrepresents the existence, nature, or
22 value of a name, image, or likeness opportunity the
23 athlete agent can arrange on behalf of the student ath-
24 lete or prospective student athlete through recruitment

1 or transfer to an institution (as defined in section
2 100 of the Protect College Sports Act of 2026); or

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

6 (B) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “Warn-
7 ing to Student Athlete: If you agree orally or in
8 writing to be represented by an agent now or in
9 the future you may lose your eligibility to com-
10 pete as a student athlete in your sport.”;

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

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

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

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

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

1 “(2) *actual damages.*

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

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

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

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

21 “(3) *DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:*

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

1 *pute that has not arisen at the time of the mak-*
 2 *ing 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 parties*
 8 *to the agreement to participate in a joint, class,*
 9 *or collective action in a judicial, arbitral, ad-*
 10 *ministrative, or other forum, concerning a dis-*
 11 *pute that has not yet arisen at the time of the*
 12 *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 rep-*
 17 *resent a student athlete in an endorsement contract shall—*

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

20 “(2) *enter into an agency contract with the stu-*
 21 *dent athlete before providing representation in an en-*
 22 *dorsement contract.*

23 “(b) *REGISTRATION ESTABLISHED.—An individual is*
 24 *deemed to be registered with a State for purposes of this*
 25 *section if the individual is—*

1 “(1) a registered professional sports agent with a
2 professional sports league or players association, in
3 good standing; or

4 “(2) registered and certified under the All State
5 Uniform Agent Acts in the State in which the agent
6 operates, in good standing.

7 “(c) *CERTIFICATION TO INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC*
8 *ASSOCIATIONS.*—

9 “(1) *REQUIREMENT.*—An athlete agent that rep-
10 resents a student athlete shall certify to each applica-
11 ble intercollegiate athletic association that the athlete
12 agent is registered with a State.

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

17 “(d) *REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCY CONTRACTS.*—To
18 be a valid contract, an agency contract shall—

19 “(1) state the name of each party to the contract;

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

21 “(3) state the registration information for the
22 athlete agent; and

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

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

2 *“An endorsement contract made in interstate or for-*
 3 *foreign commerce is, at the option of the student athlete, void*
 4 *from the inception of such contract if such contract does*
 5 *not satisfy the following requirements:*

6 *“(1) The contract is in writing.*

7 *“(2) The contract plainly states that the student*
 8 *athlete has the right to obtain or retain an athlete*
 9 *agent or legal representation with respect to the con-*
 10 *tract.*

11 *“(3) The contract contains—*

12 *“(A) a description of services rendered;*

13 *“(B) the names of each party to the con-*
 14 *tract;*

15 *“(C) the terms of the contract;*

16 *“(D) the amount of compensation to be pro-*
 17 *vided to the student athlete under the contract;*

18 *“(E) a provision specifying the cir-*
 19 *cumstance or event that would result in the ter-*
 20 *mination of the contract due to nonperformance*
 21 *of obligations by the student athlete or other par-*
 22 *ties to the contract; and*

23 *“(F) a provision specifying that the validity*
 24 *and effectiveness of the contract, and the provi-*
 25 *sion of compensation to the student athlete under*
 26 *the contract, is not conditioned upon any express*

1 *or implicit requirement that the student athlete*
 2 *enroll or remain enrolled at an institution or re-*
 3 *side in a particular location within the United*
 4 *States, unless the party making the contract*
 5 *with the student athlete is an institution, con-*
 6 *ference, associated entity, or collective affiliated*
 7 *with the institution and the contract is entered*
 8 *into after the student athlete has enrolled at such*
 9 *institution.*

10 “(4) *The contract is not for a term that extends*
 11 *beyond the eligibility of the student athlete to partici-*
 12 *pate in intercollegiate sports.*”.

13 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents for*
 14 *the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act is amend-*
 15 *ed—*

16 (1) *by inserting after the item relating to section*
 17 5 *the following:*

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

18 (2) *by adding at the end the following:*

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

 “Sec. 10. *Endorsement contract requirements.*”.

19 **SEC. 103. AGENT REGISTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTER-**
 20 **COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS.**

21 (a) *REQUIREMENTS OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC*
 22 *ASSOCIATIONS.—An intercollegiate athletic association*

1 *shall maintain a publicly available website that includes*
 2 *a searchable database of athlete agents that—*

3 *(1) are registered with a State and certified pur-*
 4 *suant to section 9 of the Sports Agent Responsibility*
 5 *and Trust Act, as added by section 102; and*

6 *(2) have certified compliance with all rules and*
 7 *bylaws of such intercollegiate athletic association, in-*
 8 *cluding any recruitment and tampering rules adopted*
 9 *under section 117.*

10 *(b) DECERTIFICATION PERMITTED.—*

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

17 *(2) EFFECT OF DECERTIFICATION.—An athlete*
 18 *agent that is decertified pursuant to paragraph (1)*
 19 *may not represent or contact a student athlete or pro-*
 20 *spective student athlete of an institution that is a*
 21 *member of such intercollegiate athletic association.*

22 **SEC. 104. DISCLOSURES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NAME,**
 23 **IMAGE, AND LIKENESS AGREEMENT DATA-**
 24 **BASE.**

25 *(a) DISCLOSURES BY INSTITUTIONS.—*

1 (1) *DISCLOSURE OF DATA ON NAME, IMAGE, AND*
 2 *LIKENESS AGREEMENTS.*—*Not later than July 1 of*
 3 *the first year beginning after the date of the enact-*
 4 *ment of this Act, and each July 1 thereafter, each in-*
 5 *stitution shall disclose to the intercollegiate athletic*
 6 *association of which the institution is a member, in*
 7 *an anonymized manner, the following data:*

8 (A) *With respect to each name, image, and*
 9 *likeness agreement disclosed to the institution by*
 10 *a student athlete as required by section 101(b)—*

11 (i) *a description of services rendered;*

12 *and*

13 (ii) *the amount of compensation to be*
 14 *provided to the student athlete or group of*
 15 *athletes under the agreement.*

16 (B) *With respect to each name, image, and*
 17 *likeness agreement entered into between the insti-*
 18 *tution and a student athlete, disaggregated by*
 19 *intercollegiate sports program—*

20 (i) *the number of agreements the insti-*
 21 *tution entered into;*

22 (ii) *the average value of the agree-*
 23 *ments; and*

24 (iii) *the total value of the agreements.*

1 (2) *REPORT ON REVENUE AND STUDENT OUT-*
2 *COMES.*—Not later than 60 days after the date on
3 *which an academic year ends, each institution with*
4 *1 or more intercollegiate sports programs shall submit*
5 *to the governing athletic association for such institu-*
6 *tion a report that includes, for the academic year, the*
7 *following:*

8 (A) *The amount of revenues and expendi-*
9 *tures of each such sports program, including the*
10 *amount of associated entity and third-party do-*
11 *nations, Federal funds, and State funds, includ-*
12 *ing the total amount of remuneration for per-*
13 *sonnel of each intercollegiate sports program, in-*
14 *dividually by program and in the aggregate.*

15 (B) *The average number of hours student*
16 *athletes spent on intercollegiate athletic events*
17 *and intercollegiate athletic competition,*
18 *disaggregated by sports program.*

19 (C) *The academic outcomes and majors for*
20 *student athletes, disaggregated by sports pro-*
21 *gram.*

22 (3) *TREATMENT OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PRO-*
23 *GRAMS.*—An institution shall treat men's and wom-
24 *en's sports programs as distinct sports programs for*

1 *the purposes of disclosure and reporting obligations*
 2 *under this subsection.*

3 (4) *PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE*
 4 *INFORMATION.—In making a disclosure under para-*
 5 *graph (1), an institution shall ensure that no person-*
 6 *ally identifiable information of a student athlete is*
 7 *transmitted to an intercollegiate athletic association.*

8 (b) *DISCLOSURES BY ASSOCIATIONS AND DATA-*
 9 *BASE.—*

10 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than September of*
 11 *the first year beginning after the date of the enact-*
 12 *ment of this Act, each intercollegiate athletic associa-*
 13 *tion shall establish and maintain a publicly acces-*
 14 *sible, searchable database for student athletes and*
 15 *their agents to estimate the fair market value for*
 16 *name, image, and likeness agreements, which shall in-*
 17 *clude data collected under subsection (a)(2).*

18 (2) *CONTENT OF DATABASE.—An intercollegiate*
 19 *athletic association shall include the data reported by*
 20 *institutions pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of*
 21 *subsection (a) in the database described in paragraph*
 22 *(1).*

23 (3) *UPDATE OF DATABASE.—An intercollegiate*
 24 *athletic association shall update the database de-*
 25 *scribed in paragraph (1) each September 1.*

1 (4) *PRIVACY.*—*An intercollegiate athletic asso-*
 2 *ciation shall take reasonable technical measures to en-*
 3 *sure that information available in the database de-*
 4 *scribed in paragraph (1) may not be used to identify*
 5 *a student athlete.*

6 (c) *LIMITATION.*—*This section shall apply only to in-*
 7 *stitutions whose primary membership is in Division I, as*
 8 *defined by bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic*
 9 *Association, or a successor bylaw, and shall not apply to*
 10 *any Division II or Division III institution (as so defined)*
 11 *that participates in a limited number of sports at the Divi-*
 12 *sion I level.*

13 **SEC. 105. ACADEMIC PROTECTIONS.**

14 (a) *PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO COURSEWORK AND*
 15 *EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.*—

16 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*An employee or volunteer of*
 17 *an athletic department of an institution may not—*

18 (A) *exert undue pressure over or prevent a*
 19 *student athlete from selecting a course or an aca-*
 20 *ademic major of the student athlete's choice;*

21 (B) *retaliate against a student athlete based*
 22 *on the student athlete's selection of any course or*
 23 *academic major; or*

24 (C) *prevent a student athlete who seeks to*
 25 *secure employment or internships, participate in*

1 *student groups or events, or serve as a volunteer*
 2 *from doing so, unless such activity interferes*
 3 *with mandatory class time or mandatory events*
 4 *related to intercollegiate athletic competition or*
 5 *membership on a varsity sports team.*

6 (2) *PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETIC RELATED AC-*
 7 *TIVITIES.—In order to ensure each student athlete*
 8 *makes satisfactory progress toward the completion of*
 9 *a degree, each intercollegiate athletic association and*
 10 *any institution that is a member of such association*
 11 *may limit a student athlete to only participate in*
 12 *countable athletic-related activities as part of the edu-*
 13 *cational, developmental, or extracurricular programs*
 14 *of the institution.*

15 (3) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1)*
 16 *may not be construed as preventing an institution, an*
 17 *athletic department of an institution, or a representa-*
 18 *tive thereof from—*

19 (A) *informing a student athlete of academic*
 20 *eligibility requirements and mandatory and ex-*
 21 *pected team activities; or*

22 (B) *providing other legitimate academic*
 23 *counseling and support services, in collaboration*
 24 *with the institution, to help the student athlete*

1 *pursue the academic interests of and improve*
 2 *academic outcomes for the student athlete.*

3 **(b) FINANCIAL LITERACY AND LIFE SKILLS.**—*An in-*
 4 *stitution that offers financial literacy and life skills pro-*
 5 *gramming directed to student athletes may not include any*
 6 *marketing, advertising, referral, or solicitation offers in*
 7 *such programming.*

8 **(c) SCHOLARSHIP PROTECTIONS.**—

9 **(1) IN GENERAL.**—*Except as provided in para-*
 10 *graph (2), an institution that awards a grant-in-aid*
 11 *to a student athlete may not revoke, reduce, or condi-*
 12 *tion the grant-in-aid of the student athlete—*

13 **(A)** *based on the athletic ability or perform-*
 14 *ance of the student athlete or the contribution of*
 15 *the student athlete to the success of a varsity*
 16 *sports team;*

17 **(B)** *as a result of an injury or illness based*
 18 *on a physical or mental medical condition of the*
 19 *student athlete; or*

20 **(C)** *roster management decisions.*

21 **(2) EXCEPTION.**—

22 **(A) IN GENERAL.**—*An institution may re-*
 23 *voke, reduce, or condition the grant-in-aid of a*
 24 *student athlete or former student athlete who—*

25 **(i)** *transfers to another institution; or*

1 (ii) does not remain in good standing
2 in accordance with—

3 (I) the standards or code of con-
4 duct of the institution applicable to all
5 students;

6 (II) the established athletics pro-
7 gram policies for participating in
8 mandatory team athletic activities for
9 a varsity sports team; or

10 (III) the academic standards for
11 athletic eligibility.

12 (B) NOTICE.—An institution shall provide
13 a student athlete with timely written notice with
14 respect to any possible revocation or reduction of,
15 or condition on, the grant-in-aid or athletic eli-
16 gibility of the student athlete.

17 (C) REINSTATEMENT.—In the case of a rev-
18 ocation or reduction of, or condition on, the
19 grant-in-aid of a student athlete under this
20 paragraph, an institution may reinstate or re-
21 move any condition placed on such grant-in-aid
22 if the student athlete subsequently cures or satis-
23 fies the reasons provided by the notice in sub-
24 paragraph (B).

25 (D) FORMER STUDENT ATHLETES.—

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

(I) the opportunity to resume study at the institution for the purpose of completing the requirements necessary to earn a degree; and

(II) the amount of grant-in-aid the former student athlete received while previously enrolled at the institution and participating—

(aa) in intercollegiate athletic competition; or

(bb) as a member of a varsity sports team.

(ii) *FORMER STUDENT ATHLETE DESCRIBED.*—*A former student athlete described 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 participate in intercollegiate athletic competition during the preceding 10-year period;

1 (II) received grant-in-aid while
2 enrolled at the institution;

3 (III) was not subject to the rev-
4 ocation of grant-in-aid under subpara-
5 graph (A)(ii)(I); and

6 (IV) has not completed the course
7 of study for an undergraduate degree.

8 (E) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in
9 this paragraph may be construed to preclude—

10 (i) an institution from providing addi-
11 tional grant-in-aid protections for student
12 athletes or former student athletes; or

13 (ii) an intercollegiate athletic associa-
14 tion, conference, institution, student athlete,
15 or former student athlete from requesting or
16 advocating for additional grant-in-aid pro-
17 tections.

18 (3) *LIMITATION.*—Paragraph (2)(D) shall apply
19 only to institutions that compete in Division I, as de-
20 fined by bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Ath-
21 letic Association, or a successor bylaw.

22 **SEC. 106. MEDICAL COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS.**

23 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Each Division I institution, as de-
24 fined by bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Asso-
25 ciation, or a successor bylaw, each institution whose pri-

1 *mary membership is in Division II or Division III (as so*
 2 *defined) only with respect to student athletes of the institu-*
 3 *tion who compete in Division I, or an intercollegiate ath-*
 4 *letic association or conference comprised of Division I mem-*
 5 *ber institutions shall provide or cause to be provided—*

6 *(1) during the participation of a student athlete*
 7 *in an intercollegiate sport—*

8 *(A) all out-of-pocket medical expenses, such*
 9 *as copayments or deductibles, for the health care*
 10 *coverage of a student athlete for any injury or*
 11 *disease incurred through participation in an*
 12 *intercollegiate sport;*

13 *(B) the expense for obtaining a medical sec-*
 14 *ond opinion independent of the institution for*
 15 *any injury or disease the student athlete in-*
 16 *curred through participation in an intercolle-*
 17 *giate sport;*

18 *(C) catastrophic injury medical insurance*
 19 *for any injury or disease incurred through par-*
 20 *ticipation in an intercollegiate sport that exceeds*
 21 *\$90,000 in medical costs; and*

22 *(D) an end-of-college physical examination*
 23 *for a student athlete for the purpose of docu-*
 24 *menting and diagnosing any injury or condition*

1 *related to the student athlete's participation in*
 2 *an intercollegiate sport; and*

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

12 (b) *INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION POST-*
 13 *ELIGIBILITY INSURANCE AND CATASTROPHIC INJURY FUND*
 14 *OR PROGRAM.—*

15 (1) *IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic as-*
 16 *sociation comprised of member institutions that com-*
 17 *pete in Division I, Division II, or Division III, as de-*
 18 *finied by bylaw 20 of the National Collegiate Athletic*
 19 *Association, or a successor bylaw, on behalf of its*
 20 *member institutions must establish a fund or pro-*
 21 *gram to help cover the cost of—*

22 (A) *in the case of a Division I institution*
 23 *that generates less than \$20,000,000 in total an-*
 24 *ual athletics revenue during the preceding aca-*
 25 *demic 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.

(B) SUBSEQUENT INCREASE.—Subject to the limitation under subparagraph (C), if the amount funded for the fund or program established under this subsection is depleted for an academic year, that amount for the next aca-

1 *demio year shall be increased by \$5,000,000 as*
 2 *compared to the amount for the previous aca-*
 3 *demio year.*

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

7 (3) *USE OF COLLECTIVE MEDIA RIGHTS.—In en-*
 8 *surino that the fund or program established under*
 9 *paragraph (2) is adequately funded, an intercollegiate*
 10 *athletic association may use the collective media*
 11 *rights revenue from a covered entity, in accordance*
 12 *with section 5(d)(3) of the Sports Broadcasting Act of*
 13 *1961, as added by section 203.*

14 (c) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section*
 15 *may be construed to preclude an intercollegiate athletic as-*
 16 *sociation from—*

17 (1) *providino or causing to be provided to stu-*
 18 *dent athletes medical coverage in addition to the med-*
 19 *ical coverage required by subsection (a); or*

20 (2) *exceedino \$60,000,000 for the fund or pro-*
 21 *gram established in subsection (b) for any academic*
 22 *year.*

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

24 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—Not later than*
 25 *270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each*

1 *institution, conference, and intercollegiate athletic associa-*
 2 *tion shall adhere to standards to protect student athletes*
 3 *from sports-related serious injury, conditions, and death,*
 4 *including—*

5 (1) *brain injury, by adhering to the concussion*
 6 *management practices, protocols, and legislation of*
 7 *the National Collegiate Athletic Association effective*
 8 *January 15, 2024, and as amended to strengthen pro-*
 9 *tections for student athletes;*

10 (2) *heat-related illness, by adhering to the Amer-*
 11 *ican College of Sports Medicine Expert Consensus*
 12 *Statement on Exertional Heat Illness: Recognition,*
 13 *Management, and Return to Activity (April 2023),*
 14 *and as amended to strengthen protections for student*
 15 *athletes;*

16 (3) *rhabdomyolysis, in accordance with the*
 17 *guidelines of the National Collegiate Athletic Associa-*
 18 *tion for exertional rhabdomyolysis published in 2025,*
 19 *and as amended to strengthen protections for student*
 20 *athletes; and*

21 (4) *for any student athlete who is identified*
 22 *with—*

23 (A) *sickle cell trait, by following the guide-*
 24 *lines published by the National Collegiate Ath-*

1 *letic Association in 2025, and as amended to*
 2 *strengthen protections for student athletes; and*

3 *(B) asthma, by following the guidelines of*
 4 *the National Athletic Trainers' Association Posi-*
 5 *tion Statement: Management of Asthma in Ath-*
 6 *letes (September 2005), and as amended to*
 7 *strengthen protections for student athletes.*

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

12 *(1) abuse or hazing of any student athlete, in-*
 13 *cluding physical and sexual abuse; and*

14 *(2) sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual*
 15 *harassment.*

16 *(c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON CONTACT FOR*
 17 *STUDENT ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN.—*

18 *(1) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-*
 19 *TION.—An intercollegiate athletic association shall*
 20 *provide to student athletes information on how to con-*
 21 *tact the Office of the Student Athlete Ombudsman, as*
 22 *established in section 108, on the internet website of*
 23 *the association.*

24 *(2) INSTITUTION.—At the beginning of each aca-*
 25 *demic year, an institution shall provide to student*

1 *athletes information on how to locate the website spec-*
 2 *ified under paragraph (1) or a link to the website and*
 3 *information on how to contact the Office of the Stu-*
 4 *dent Athlete Ombudsman, as established in section*
 5 *108.*

6 *(d) ATHLETIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICERS.—*

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

11 *(2) REPORTING.—The athletic health and safety*
 12 *officer designated under paragraph (1) shall report to*
 13 *an employee of the institution who is independent of*
 14 *the athletic department.*

15 *(3) OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES.—An employee*
 16 *who is designated by an institution under paragraph*
 17 *(1) as an athletic health and safety officer shall be re-*
 18 *sponsible for, at a minimum—*

19 *(A) overseeing implementation of the appli-*
 20 *cable requirements the institution is subject to*
 21 *under this section, including any applicable*
 22 *training, oversight practices, policies, and proce-*
 23 *dures; and*

24 *(B) consulting with student athletes and*
 25 *athletic department personnel and reporting any*

1 *suspected violations of this section to the em-*
 2 *ployee specified under paragraph (2).*

3 *(e) INDEPENDENCE OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.—*

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

10 *(2) LIMITATION ON NONMEDICAL PERSONNEL.—*

11 *No coach or other nonmedical personnel of an institu-*
 12 *tion may attempt to influence or disregard the deci-*
 13 *sions of medical personnel with respect to the medical*
 14 *management and return to play decisions for student*
 15 *athletes under their care at the institution.*

16 *(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section*
 17 *may be construed to preclude—*

18 *(1) an intercollegiate athletic association from*
 19 *establishing additional health, wellness, and safety*
 20 *standards to protect student athletes; or*

21 *(2) an intercollegiate athletic association, con-*
 22 *ference, institution, or student athletes from request-*
 23 *ing or advocating for additional health, wellness, and*
 24 *safety standards to protect student athletes.*

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

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

6 (b) *DUTIES.*—The Office shall—

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

12 (2) *assist in the resolution of student athlete con-*
13 *cerns regarding the intercollegiate athletic association,*
14 *conferences, or institutions;*

15 (3) *provide independent advice to student ath-*
16 *letes with respect to the role, responsibility, authority,*
17 *and jurisdiction of the intercollegiate athletic associa-*
18 *tion, conferences, or institutions;*

19 (4) *provide student athletes with current contact*
20 *information for external third-party resources for stu-*
21 *dent athletes;*

22 (5) *provide independent advice to student ath-*
23 *letes with respect to the relative value of engaging*
24 *legal counsel;*

25 (6) *develop standard language to explain the*
26 *rights and responsibilities of student athletes under*

1 *this Act that institutions shall be required to con-*
 2 *spicuously display in common areas where student*
 3 *athletes congregate, such as locker rooms, dormitories,*
 4 *or study areas, to ensure that student athletes are*
 5 *properly informed of their rights, responsibilities, and*
 6 *ability to contact the Ombudsman; and*

7 *(7) as appropriate, develop curricula to educate*
 8 *student athletes on their rights and responsibilities*
 9 *under this Act that is capable of being shared through*
 10 *in person or online classes, training sessions, or other*
 11 *means.*

12 *(c) ADMINISTRATION.—An intercollegiate athletic asso-*
 13 *ciation shall hire and provide salary, benefits, and admin-*
 14 *istrative expenses for an Ombudsman and support staff for*
 15 *the Office.*

16 *(d) CONFIDENTIALITY.—*

17 *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall maintain as*
 18 *confidential any information communicated or pro-*
 19 *vided to the Office in confidence in any matter in-*
 20 *volving the exercise of the official duties of the Office.*

21 *(2) EXCEPTION.—The Office may, with the per-*
 22 *mission of the parties involved, disclose information*
 23 *described in paragraph (1) as necessary to resolve or*
 24 *mediate a dispute.*

1 (3) *APPLICATION.*—*The confidentiality require-*
 2 *ments under this subsection shall not apply to infor-*
 3 *mation—*

4 (A) *as necessary to comply with applicable*
 5 *reporting requirements mandated by Federal*
 6 *law;*

7 (B) *relating to a felony personally wit-*
 8 *nessed by a member of the Office;*

9 (C) *if necessary to protect an individual at*
 10 *imminent risk of serious harm; or*

11 (D) *with the permission of the parties in-*
 12 *volved, as necessary to resolve or mediate a dis-*
 13 *pute.*

14 (4) *JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRO-*
 15 *CEEDINGS.*—

16 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Ombudsman and*
 17 *any staff of the Office shall not be compelled to*
 18 *testify or produce evidence in any judicial or ad-*
 19 *ministrative proceeding with respect to any mat-*
 20 *ter involving the exercise of the duties of the Of-*
 21 *fice.*

22 (B) *CONFIDENTIALITY.*—*Any memorandum,*
 23 *work product, notes, or case file of the Office—*

24 (i) *shall be confidential; and*

25 (ii) *shall not be—*

1 (I) *subject to discovery, subpoena,*
 2 *or any other means of legal compul-*
 3 *sion; or*

4 (II) *admissible as evidence in a*
 5 *judicial or administrative proceeding.*

6 (5) *PROHIBITION ON RETALIATION.—No em-*
 7 *ployee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of an*
 8 *intercollegiate athletic association, a conference, or an*
 9 *institution shall take or threaten to take any action*
 10 *against a student athlete as a reprisal for disclosing*
 11 *information to or seeking assistance from the Office.*

12 (e) *INDEPENDENCE IN CARRYING OUT DUTIES.—The*
 13 *board of directors or other governing board or committee*
 14 *of an intercollegiate athletic association, a conference, or*
 15 *an institution shall not prevent or prohibit the Office from*
 16 *carrying out any duty or responsibility under this section.*

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

19 *Intercollegiate athletic associations and conferences*
 20 *shall maintain comparable standards for medical care,*
 21 *lodging, meals, rest, transportation, and, if applicable, ath-*
 22 *letic facilities for championship events or tournaments,*
 23 *across similarly situated men's and women's athletic pro-*
 24 *grams.*

1 **SEC. 110. RULES GOVERNING CERTAIN MID-SEASON COACH-**
2 **ING TRANSITIONS.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—An individual who serves, or has
4 served at any point during a competitive season, as football
5 athletic personnel for a varsity sports team for intercolle-
6 giate football at an institution shall not, during that same
7 competitive season, perform for another institution any du-
8 ties or responsibilities customarily associated with a head
9 coach of a varsity sports team for intercollegiate football,
10 including, at a minimum—

11 (1) *recruiting or contacting prospective or cur-*
12 *rent student athletes;*

13 (2) *directing, participating in, or materially in-*
14 *fluencing recruiting strategy or evaluations;*

15 (3) *directing, participating in, or materially in-*
16 *fluencing roster management decisions, including de-*
17 *cisions relating to transfers;*

18 (4) *facilitating, coordinating, negotiating, or*
19 *otherwise materially influencing name, image, and*
20 *likeness activities involving student athletes;*

21 (5) *directing, supervising, or materially influ-*
22 *encing coaching staff or team operations;*

23 (6) *participating in practice planning, game*
24 *preparation, strategic decision-making, or on-field ac-*
25 *tivities;*

1 (7) *publicly representing the institution in an*
2 *intercollegiate football-related capacity in a manner*
3 *that reflects or implies authority over the intercolle-*
4 *giate football program; and*

5 (8) *undertaking any other activity customarily*
6 *associated with a head coach of a varsity sports team*
7 *for intercollegiate football.*

8 (b) *APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply without*
9 *regard to title, formal designation, compensation structure,*
10 *employment status, or timing of any public announcement,*
11 *and the applicable intercollegiate athletic association may*
12 *prohibit any arrangement that, in substance or effect, pro-*
13 *vides an individual described in subsection (a) with author-*
14 *ity or responsibilities customarily exercised by a head*
15 *coach.*

16 (c) *DETERMINATION OF INELIGIBILITY.—An indi-*
17 *vidual described in subsection (a) who accepts employment,*
18 *appointment, or designation as head coach of a varsity*
19 *sports team for intercollegiate football at another institution*
20 *during the same competitive season is ineligible to partici-*
21 *pate in intercollegiate athletic competition for intercolle-*
22 *giate football as head coach for the hiring institution*
23 *through the conclusion of the competitive season, including*
24 *any postseason competition, of the prior institution or the*
25 *hiring institution, whichever occurs later.*

1 (d) *PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.*—*In the event*
 2 *an individual who accepts employment, appointment, or*
 3 *designation as head coach of a varsity sports team for inter-*
 4 *collegiate football at another institution violates this sec-*
 5 *tion, that individual shall be ineligible to assume the duties*
 6 *as head coach of the varsity sports team for intercollegiate*
 7 *football at the hiring institution for the subsequent competi-*
 8 *tive season after the season in which the violation occurred*
 9 *and be subject to additional penalties sufficient to ensure*
 10 *compliance with this section.*

11 (e) *APPLICATION.*—*This section applies only to insti-*
 12 *tutions that compete in the Football Bowl Subdivision, as*
 13 *defined by bylaw 20.9.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic*
 14 *Association, or a successor bylaw.*

15 (f) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

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

23 (2) *COMPETITIVE SEASON.*—*The term “competi-*
 24 *tive season” means the period beginning with the first*
 25 *regularly scheduled intercollegiate athletic competition*

1 *for intercollegiate football for an institution during a*
 2 *season and ending with the conclusion of the final*
 3 *intercollegiate athletic competition for intercollegiate*
 4 *football for the institution during that season.*

5 (3) *FOOTBALL ATHLETIC PERSONNEL.*—*The term*
 6 *“football athletic personnel” means any individual*
 7 *employed by, contracted with, or otherwise engaged by*
 8 *an institution who provides coaching, instruction, re-*
 9 *cruiting, roster management, or training as the head*
 10 *coach or a coordinator, including an offensive, defen-*
 11 *sive, or special teams coordinator, of student athletes*
 12 *who are members of or participate with the varsity*
 13 *sports team for intercollegiate football of the institu-*
 14 *tion.*

15 (4) *INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.*—*The term*
 16 *“intercollegiate football”—*

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

21 (B) *does not include a recreational, intra-*
 22 *mural, or club sport.*

1 **SEC. 111. STUDENT ATHLETE REPRESENTATION ON INTER-**
 2 **COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION GOV-**
 3 **ERNING BOARDS.**

4 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 1/3 of the membership*
 5 *and voting power of any board of directors or other gov-*
 6 *erning board, or committees with authority to establish and*
 7 *enforce rules or bylaws shall be comprised of current student*
 8 *athletes or former student athletes who have graduated from*
 9 *their institution during the preceding 10-year period.*

10 *(b) LIMITATION.—*

11 *(1) A former student athlete who is a current or*
 12 *former employee of an intercollegiate athletic associa-*
 13 *tion, a conference, or a member institution may not*
 14 *count towards the student athlete membership require-*
 15 *ment pursuant to subsection (a); and*

16 *(2) no member of any such board or committee*
 17 *shall vote on any matter that presents a conflict of in-*
 18 *terest for such member.*

19 **SEC. 112. TRANSFER PROTECTIONS.**

20 *An institution, a conference, an intercollegiate athletic*
 21 *association, or any representative of such entity shall per-*
 22 *mit a student athlete to transfer from one institution to*
 23 *another institution—*

24 *(1) once without losing or delaying eligibility to*
 25 *participate in intercollegiate sports;*

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

5 (3) *additionally, without losing or delaying eli-*
 6 *gibility to participate in intercollegiate sports,*
 7 *upon—*

8 (A) *discontinuation of a sport in which the*
 9 *student athlete competes;*

10 (B) *the departure of the head coach of the*
 11 *student athlete's varsity sports team;*

12 (C) *sexual assault or harassment of the stu-*
 13 *dent athlete by an individual associated with the*
 14 *student athlete's institution; or*

15 (D) *the student athlete pursuing a graduate*
 16 *degree.*

17 **SEC. 113. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERCOLLE-**
 18 **GIATE SPORTS.**

19 (a) *IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligible to partici-*
 20 *pate on a varsity sports team or in intercollegiate athletic*
 21 *competition if the individual—*

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 intercollegiate*
7 *athletic competition for a maximum of 5 calendar*
8 *years beginning on, whichever occurs first—*

9 (A) *the beginning of the academic year fol-*
10 *lowing the 19th birthday of the student athlete;*
11 *or*

12 (B) *the date the student athlete initially en-*
13 *rolls full time at an institution.*

14 (2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—*Paragraph (1) does not apply*
15 *during a period of absence for any of the following:*

16 (A) *Reasons of pregnancy.*

17 (B) *Religious mission.*

18 (C) *Active-duty military service.*

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

23 **(c) RESTRICTIONS ON ELIGIBILITY.—**

24 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—*An intercollegiate athletic as-*
25 *sociation or a conference may restrict the eligibility*

1 of a student athlete to participate in intercollegiate
2 sports if the student athlete—

3 (A) used an illegal or performance enhanc-
4 ing drug; or

5 (B) participated in sports wagering activi-
6 ties or sports-related event contracts.

7 (2) *CODE OF CONDUCT.*—An institution may re-
8 strict the eligibility of a student athlete to participate
9 in intercollegiate sports if the student athlete violated
10 the code of conduct of the institution that applies to
11 all students.

12 (d) *CLARIFICATION ON PRIZE MONEY.*—For purposes
13 of subsection (a)(3), a student athlete who competes in a
14 sport other than football or basketball shall not be consid-
15 ered a professional athlete based solely on the amount of
16 prize money the student athlete received based on place fin-
17 ish or performance in an athletic event before or after en-
18 rollment in an institution, so long as—

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

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

24 (e) *TRANSFER FROM 2-YEAR INSTITUTION.*—No inter-
25 collegiate athletic association or conference shall require a

1 *student athlete who transfers from a 2-year institution to*
 2 *a 4-year institution to meet additional or more stringent*
 3 *academic standards than the academic standards required*
 4 *for student athletes who transfer from a 4-year institution.*

5 (f) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—*Nothing in this section*
 6 *shall be construed to restrict the ability of an institution*
 7 *to—*

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

13 (2) *discipline or sanction a student athlete for*
 14 *violating a rule, regulation, or code of conduct that*
 15 *applies to all students enrolled at the institution; or*

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

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

21 (a) *CERTAIN AGREEMENTS AND COMPENSATION PRO-*
 22 *HIBITED.*—*An institution, an employee of an institution,*
 23 *a volunteer of an institution, a conference, an employee of*
 24 *a conference, or an associated entity shall not—*

1 (1) *except as provided in subsection (b), arrange,*
 2 *provide, offer, or permit, directly or indirectly, com-*
 3 *ensation in an amount that would circumvent or re-*
 4 *sult in the institution exceeding the revenue share cap*
 5 *to—*

6 (A) *a student athlete, a group of student*
 7 *athletes, or their family members; or*

8 (B) *a prospective student athlete, a group of*
 9 *prospective student athletes, or their family*
 10 *members; or*

11 (2) *except for a name, image, and likeness agree-*
 12 *ment between a student athlete and an institution or*
 13 *between a prospective student athlete and an institu-*
 14 *tion, enter into a name, image, and likeness agree-*
 15 *ment with a student athlete or prospective student*
 16 *athlete that is not—*

17 (A) *for a valid business purpose; and*

18 (B) *commensurate with compensation paid*
 19 *to individuals with a similar profile, reputation,*
 20 *or notability who are not student athletes or pro-*
 21 *spective student athletes.*

22 (b) *PERSONAL ATHLETIC AND EDUCATION BENEFITS*
 23 *PERMITTED.—An intercollegiate athletic association, a con-*
 24 *ference, an institution, or any representative thereof shall*
 25 *not, pursuant to the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agreement*

1 *approved by the court in “In Re College Athlete NIL Litiga-*
 2 *tion”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025), restrict*
 3 *the ability of a student athlete enrolled at an institution*
 4 *to receive compensation from an intercollegiate athletic as-*
 5 *sociation, an institution, a conference, or an associated en-*
 6 *tity, for personal benefits related to education or intercolle-*
 7 *giate athletics, if those benefits are—*

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

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

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

20 (c) *VALID BUSINESS PURPOSE.—Except for a name,*
 21 *image, and likeness agreement with an institution, a name,*
 22 *image, and likeness agreement with a student athlete shall*
 23 *be for a valid business purpose.*

24 (d) *PAYMENTS TO COACHES AND MANAGERS.—*

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*An institution described in*
 2 *paragraph (2) may not compensate or otherwise pro-*
 3 *vide or promise any type of payment or benefit of*
 4 *more than \$500,000 to any coach, assistant coach,*
 5 *general manager, or other person who coaches or*
 6 *manages a varsity sports team by using, diverting,*
 7 *budgeting, or otherwise obtaining funds from any*
 8 *source other than college sports revenue or a donation*
 9 *or contribution to the athletic department of the insti-*
 10 *tution.*

11 (2) *INSTITUTION DESCRIBED.*—*An institution*
 12 *described in this paragraph is an institution with*
 13 *more than \$80,000,000 in total annual athletics rev-*
 14 *enue during the preceding academic year.*

15 (e) *INSTITUTION DEFINED.*—*In this section, the term*
 16 *“institution” means—*

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

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

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

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Upon expiration or termination of
 3 the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agreement approved by the
 4 court in “*In Re College Athlete NIL Litigation*”, No. 20–
 5 cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025), the revenue share cap
 6 shall continue to apply with respect to section 114(a), in-
 7 cluding any adjustments specified in subsection (b).

8 (b) *ADJUSTMENT OF REVENUE SHARE CAP.*—Upon
 9 expiration of the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agreement
 10 approved by the court in “*In Re College Athlete NIL Litiga-*
 11 *tion*”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025), the an-
 12 nual revenue share cap shall be adjusted annually for infla-
 13 tion by the percent increase, if any, in the Consumer Price
 14 Index for All-Urban Consumers published by the Bureau
 15 of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor for the most
 16 recent 12-month period for which applicable data is avail-
 17 able.

18 **SEC. 116. COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF COLLEGE ATH-**
 19 **LETICS.**

20 (a) *COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF COLLEGE ATH-*
 21 *LETICS.*—

22 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—There is established within
 23 the legislative branch a commission, to be known as
 24 the “Congressional Commission on the Future of Col-
 25 lege Athletics” (referred to in this section as the

1 “Commission”), for the purpose of providing rec-
2 ommendations on the future of college athletics.

3 (2) *PURPOSE.*—The purpose of the commission is
4 to provide recommendations for the future of college
5 athletics.

6 (b) *MEMBERSHIP.*—

7 (1) *COMPOSITION.*—Subject to paragraph (2),
8 the Commission shall be composed of 24 members, of
9 whom—

10 (A) 4 members shall be appointed by the
11 chair of the Committee on Commerce, Science,
12 and Transportation, of which at least 1 member
13 shall be a student athlete or former student ath-
14 lete;

15 (B) 4 members shall be appointed by the
16 ranking member of the Committee on Commerce,
17 Science, and Transportation of the Senate, of
18 which at least 1 member shall be a student ath-
19 lete or former student athlete;

20 (C) 4 members shall be appointed by the
21 chair of the Committee on Energy and Com-
22 merce of the House of Representatives, of which
23 at least 1 member shall be a student athlete or
24 former student athlete;

1 (D) 4 members shall be appointed by the
2 ranking member of the Committee on Energy
3 and Commerce of the House of Representatives,
4 of which at least 1 member shall be a student
5 athlete or former student athlete;

6 (E) 1 member shall be a current or former
7 student athlete appointed by the majority leader
8 of the Senate, in consultation with the chair of
9 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
10 Transportation of the Senate;

11 (F) 1 member shall be a current or former
12 student athlete appointed by the minority leader
13 of the Senate, in consultation with the ranking
14 member of the Committee on Commerce, Science,
15 and Transportation of the 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 Com-
20 merce of the House of Representatives;

21 (H) 1 member shall be a current or former
22 student athlete appointed by the minority leader
23 of the House of Representatives, in consultation
24 with the ranking member of the Committee on

1 *Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-*
 2 *resentatives;*

3 *(I) 1 member shall be a representative of a*
 4 *historically Black college or university, ap-*
 5 *pointed by the majority leader of the Senate;*

6 *(J) 1 member shall be a representative of a*
 7 *historically Black college or university, ap-*
 8 *pointed by the Speaker of the House of Rep-*
 9 *resentatives;*

10 *(K) 1 member shall be a representative of a*
 11 *mid-sized conference, appointed by the majority*
 12 *leader of the Senate; and*

13 *(L) 1 member shall be a representative of a*
 14 *mid-sized conference, appointed by the Speaker*
 15 *of the House of Representatives.*

16 *(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Members of the Commis-*
 17 *sion shall be individuals who are nationally recog-*
 18 *nized for expertise, knowledge, or experience in mat-*
 19 *ters related to college athletics, university administra-*
 20 *tion, sports law, labor law, athlete welfare, sports eco-*
 21 *nomics, health care, or sports medicine.*

22 *(3) CO-CHAIRS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND*
 23 *STAFF.—*

24 *(A) CO-CHAIRS.—The Commission shall*
 25 *have 2 co-chairs, of whom—*

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

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

5 (B) *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.*—

6 *The co-chairs of the Commission shall appoint*
7 *an executive director of the Commission and*
8 *such staff as appropriate, with compensation.*

9 (4) *HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVER-*
10 *SITY DEFINED.*—*In this subsection, the term “histori-*
11 *cally Black college or university” has the meaning*
12 *given the term “part B institution” in section 322 of*
13 *the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).*

14 (5) *MID-SIZED CONFERENCE DEFINED.*—*In this*
15 *subsection, the term “mid-sized conference” means*
16 *any conference that has generated less than*
17 *\$500,000,000 in total annual revenue during the pre-*
18 *ceding academic year.*

19 (c) *AUTHORITY.*—*The Commission may, for the pur-*
20 *pose of carrying out the duties of the Commission—*

21 (1) *hold such hearings and sit and act at such*
22 *times and places, take such testimony, receive such*
23 *evidence, and administer such oaths; and*

24 (2) *require, by subpoena issued upon a majority*
25 *vote of the Commission, the attendance and testimony*

1 *of such witnesses and the production of such books,*
 2 *records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and doc-*
 3 *uments as the Commission considers relevant to the*
 4 *purpose of the Commission.*

5 *(d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Commission are as fol-*
 6 *lows:*

7 *(1) To study and develop recommendations re-*
 8 *garding—*

9 *(A) an alternative structure for providing*
 10 *compensation for student athletes, including con-*
 11 *sideration of the positive and negative implica-*
 12 *tions associated with a collective bargaining*
 13 *structure and employment status for student ath-*
 14 *letes;*

15 *(B) protecting and preserving athletic op-*
 16 *portunities for student athletes, particularly in*
 17 *non-revenue generating, women's, and Olympic*
 18 *sports intercollegiate athletic programs;*

19 *(C) whether any intercollegiate sport should*
 20 *be subject to spending or cost limitations;*

21 *(D) whether to eliminate, extend, or change*
 22 *the Pool Benefits Limit set forth in the Injunc-*
 23 *tive Relief Settlement Agreement as approved or*
 24 *amended by the court in “In Re College Athlete*

1 *NIL Litigation*”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal.
2 June 6, 2025);

3 (E) *compliance with endorsement contract*
4 *reporting requirements established by an athletic*
5 *association or a conference;*

6 (F) *adequacy of health and safety standards*
7 *established pursuant to this title and compliance*
8 *with those standards by institutions;*

9 (G) *the adequacy of the athlete agent provi-*
10 *sions of this title;*

11 (H) *the extent to which student athletes ex-*
12 *perience abuse or mistreatment and measures*
13 *that could protect student athletes from such*
14 *abuse or mistreatment;*

15 (I) *the benefits of the intercollegiate athletic*
16 *system, including consideration of how the bal-*
17 *ance of education and athletics impacts the life*
18 *skills, educational opportunities, leadership*
19 *skills, character development, and personal*
20 *growth of the student athlete; and*

21 (J) *any other recommendations regarding*
22 *intercollegiate athletics.*

23 (2) *To draft a joint resolution of approval under*
24 *subsection (i) that provides for implementation of the*
25 *recommendation of the Commission on whether to*

1 eliminate, raise, or lower the Pool Benefits Limit in
2 section 114(a).

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

8 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
9 and Transportation of the Senate;

10 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
11 merce of the House of Representatives; and

12 (C) the President.

13 (e) QUORUM.—Twelve members of the Commission, of
14 which 5 members shall be current or former student athletes,
15 shall constitute a quorum.

16 (f) INITIAL MEETING.—The Commission shall hold an
17 initial meeting not later than 30 days after the date on
18 which a sufficient number of members have been appointed
19 under subsection (b) to constitute a quorum pursuant to
20 subsection (e).

21 (g) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold
22 1 or more public hearings.

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

1 (i) *JOINT RESOLUTION.*—*Any Member of Congress*
 2 *may introduce a joint resolution for consideration to adopt*
 3 *any of the recommendations of the Commission, in whole*
 4 *or in part, including any recommendations from the Com-*
 5 *mission on whether to eliminate, raise, or lower the Pool*
 6 *Benefits Limit.*

7 (j) *TERMINATION.*—*The Commission shall terminate*
 8 *90 days after the date on which the Commission submits*
 9 *the report required by this section.*

10 (k) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There is*
 11 *authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums*
 12 *as may be necessary in any fiscal year, half of which shall*
 13 *be derived from the applicable account of the House of Rep-*
 14 *resentatives and half of which shall be derived from the con-*
 15 *tingent fund of the Senate.*

16 **SEC. 117. RECRUITMENT AND TAMPERING.**

17 *An intercollegiate athletic association may enforce pro-*
 18 *visions on recruitment and tampering of student athletes*
 19 *or prospective student athletes before and during their eligi-*
 20 *bility for intercollegiate athletic competition that—*

21 (1) *prohibit an institution, an employee of an*
 22 *institution, a conference, an employee of a conference,*
 23 *or an associated entity from contacting a student ath-*
 24 *lete who is enrolled at or committed to another insti-*
 25 *tution for the purpose of recruiting that student ath-*

1 *lete to transfer to or enroll at an institution except*
2 *for during a reasonable period of time for each sport*
3 *that in no case shall be less than 2 weeks or greater*
4 *than 5 weeks starting 7 days after the last intercolle-*
5 *giate athletic competition in an academic year in the*
6 *intercollegiate sport in which the student athlete com-*
7 *petes and in which student athletes from the same*
8 *intercollegiate athletic association competed;*

9 *(2) prohibit an athlete agent from contacting an*
10 *institution, employee of an institution, or institution*
11 *associated on behalf of a student athlete who is en-*
12 *rolled at or committed to another institution for the*
13 *purpose of facilitating the transfer or enrollment of*
14 *the student athlete at the contacted institution except*
15 *for during a reasonable period of time for each sport*
16 *that in no case shall be less than 2 weeks or greater*
17 *than 5 weeks starting 7 days after the last intercolle-*
18 *giate athletic competition in an academic year in the*
19 *intercollegiate sport in which the student athlete com-*
20 *petes and in which student athletes from the same*
21 *intercollegiate athletic association competed;*

22 *(3) prohibit an institution, an employee of an*
23 *institution, a conference, an employee of a conference,*
24 *an associated entity, or an athlete agent from recruit-*
25 *ing or contacting a student athlete or prospective stu-*

1 *dent athlete who has not affirmatively opted in to re-*
 2 *ceive such recruitment or contact; or*

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

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, a*
 14 *conference, or an institution to enforce or comply with, in-*
 15 *cluding 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 select-*
 2 *ing participants is not entitled to antitrust exemption*
 3 *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 antitrust*
 8 *laws for an intercollegiate athletic association or conference*
 9 *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, an*
 12 *employee of a conference, or an associated entity for*
 13 *a violation of sections 110, 112, 113, 114, 115, or*
 14 *117;*

15 *(2) restrict an institution, employee or volunteer*
 16 *of an institution, a conference, or an employee of a*
 17 *conference, from participation in intercollegiate ath-*
 18 *letic competition, including championships or tour-*
 19 *naments, for a violation of sections 110, 112, 113,*
 20 *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 contraven-
 5 tion 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 102.

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

16 (d) *DESIGNATION OF ENTITY.*—An intercollegiate ath-
 17 letic association or conference may designate an entity
 18 under its control pursuant to the Injunctive Relief Settle-
 19 ment Agreement approved by the court in “*In Re College*
 20 *Athlete NIL Litigation*”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June
 21 6, 2025) for which it shall not be unlawful to enforce or
 22 comply with section 114.

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

24 (a) *VIOLATIONS.*—A person may file a civil action in
 25 an appropriate district court of the United States or in an

1 *appropriate State court only for a violation of the fol-*
 2 *lowing:*

3 (1) *Subsections (a) and (c) of section 101.*

4 (2) *Section 104.*

5 (3) *Section 105.*

6 (4) *Section 106.*

7 (5) *Section 107.*

8 (6) *Section 108.*

9 (7) *Section 109.*

10 (8) *Section 111.*

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

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

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

23 (C) *is filed in an appropriate district court*
 24 *of the United States.*

25 (10) *Section 113, 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 eligibility standard set forth
 4 in section 113;

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 (11) Section 114(b).

15 (b) *LIMITATION.*—The protection from antitrust liabil-
 16 ity set forth in section 118 shall not be limited by a private
 17 right of action filed under subsection (a).

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

21 (1) actual damages; and

22 (2) any other relief, including equitable relief or
 23 declaratory relief, that the court determines appro-
 24 priate (including attorney's fees, if otherwise allowed
 25 under applicable law).

1 (d) *LIMITATION ON PRE-DISPUTE AGREEMENTS AND*
 2 *WAIVERS.*—

3 (1) *PRE-DISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREEMENT.*—

4 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Notwithstanding any*
 5 *other provision of law, no intercollegiate athletic*
 6 *association, conference, or institution shall in-*
 7 *clude a pre-dispute arbitration agreement (as de-*
 8 *finied in section 401 of title 9, United States*
 9 *Code) in an agreement with a student athlete re-*
 10 *garding a provision of this title or an amend-*
 11 *ment made to this title.*

12 (B) *TREATMENT OF CLAIM.*—*If a claim for*
 13 *a violation of this title arises, a student athlete*
 14 *has the option to arbitrate the dispute if the*
 15 *intercollegiate athletic association, conference, or*
 16 *institution agrees to the arbitration.*

17 (2) *PRE-DISPUTE JOINT-ACTION WAIVER.*—*Not-*
 18 *withstanding any other provision of law, no inter-*
 19 *collegiate athletic association or conference shall en-*
 20 *force a pre-dispute joint-action waiver (as defined in*
 21 *section 401 of title 9, United States Code) against a*
 22 *student athlete or group of student athletes with re-*
 23 *spect to a dispute arising under this title or an*
 24 *amendment made to this title, so long as there are not*
 25 *fewer than 7 named plaintiffs.*

1 (e) *DISPUTES ARISING FROM ENFORCEMENT OF IN-*
 2 *JUNCTIVE RELIEF SETTLEMENT.*—*Notwithstanding sub-*
 3 *section (d)—*

4 (1) *a claim made by any entity or individual*
 5 *subject to the injunctive relief provisions in “In Re*
 6 *College Athlete NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919*
 7 *(N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025), regarding whether a name,*
 8 *image, or likeness agreement is for a valid business*
 9 *purpose shall follow the procedure set forth in article*
 10 *6, section 2, of such settlement; and*

11 (2) *in any dispute regarding whether an institu-*
 12 *tion, an employee of an institution, a volunteer of an*
 13 *institution, a conference, an employee of a conference,*
 14 *or an associated entity complied with paragraph (1)*
 15 *or (2) of section 114(a), an institution, an employee*
 16 *of an institution, a volunteer of an institution, a con-*
 17 *ference, an employee of a conference, or an associated*
 18 *entity shall follow the procedure set forth in article 6,*
 19 *section 2 of “In Re College Athlete NIL Litigation”,*
 20 *No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025).*

21 (f) *NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR CIVIL ACTIONS.*—

22 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*A civil action may be brought*
 23 *by a person under this section only if, prior to filing*
 24 *such action, the plaintiff provides to the defendant 60*
 25 *days written notice identifying the specific provisions*

1 *set forth in subsection (a) that the plaintiff alleges*
 2 *have been or are being violated.*

3 (2) *EFFECT OF CURE.—In the event a cure is*
 4 *possible, if, within the 60-day period under para-*
 5 *graph (1), the defendant cures the violation and pro-*
 6 *vides the plaintiff with an express written statement*
 7 *that the violation has been cured and no such further*
 8 *violation shall occur, an action shall not be per-*
 9 *mitted.*

10 **SEC. 120. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.**

11 (a) *IN GENERAL.—No institution, conference, or inter-*
 12 *collegiate athletic association, or any agent thereof, may*
 13 *discharge, demote, suspend, withdraw or reduce benefits*
 14 *from, threaten, harass, or in any other manner discrimi-*
 15 *nate against an employee, a student athlete, a prospective*
 16 *student athlete, a former student athlete, a contractor, a*
 17 *subcontractor, a service provider, or an agent of an institu-*
 18 *tion, a conference, or an intercollegiate athletic association*
 19 *because of any lawful act done by such individual—*

20 (1) *to provide information to, or cause informa-*
 21 *tion to be provided to, an agency of the Federal Gov-*
 22 *ernment, an agency of State government, Congress, or*
 23 *any law enforcement agency regarding any act or*
 24 *omission that such individual reasonably believes to*
 25 *be a violation of this title; or*

1 (2) *to file, cause to be filed, testify, participate*
 2 *in, or otherwise assist in a proceeding filed or about*
 3 *to be filed relating to an alleged violation of this title.*

4 **(b) ENFORCEMENT ACTION.—**

5 (1) *IN GENERAL.—An individual aggrieved by a*
 6 *violation of subsection (a) may bring an action in the*
 7 *appropriate district court of the United States for the*
 8 *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 senior-*
 23 *ity status that the individual would have*
 24 *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 ARBITRA-*
9 *TION 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 or
17 enforceable if the agreement requires arbitration of a
18 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 or*
 5 *prospective student athlete for the use of their*
 6 *name, image, or likeness, except as necessary to*
 7 *comply with this title;*

8 (B) *transfers of student athletes between in-*
 9 *stitutions; or*

10 (C) *any provision described in section 113*
 11 *relating to the eligibility of a student athlete to*
 12 *participate in intercollegiate athletics.*

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

17 (1) *Except to the extent that such law rule, regu-*
 18 *lation, requirement, or common law right or remedy*
 19 *conflicts with subsection (a), the following:*

20 (A) *Uniform Athlete Agent Acts.*

21 (B) *Civil rights laws.*

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

24 (D) *Criminal law.*

1 (E) *Laws that relate to student or campus*
 2 *safety.*

3 (F) *Fraud.*

4 (G) *Privacy or data breach.*

5 (H) *Contract law.*

6 (I) *Trademark law.*

7 (J) *Copyright law.*

8 (K) *Consumer protection law.*

9 (2) *Except to the extent that such law conflicts*
 10 *with subsection (a)(2), any law, whether statutory or*
 11 *common law, that gives rise to a cause of action for*
 12 *the following:*

13 (A) *Personal injury, including psychological*
 14 *injury.*

15 (B) *Wrongful death.*

16 (C) *Property damage.*

17 (D) *Sexual assault.*

18 (E) *Injury.*

19 (F) *Harassment.*

20 (G) *Any cause of action derivative of any*
 21 *of subparagraphs (A) through (F).*

22 (c) *RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—*

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

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

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

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

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

12 **SEC. 123. APPLICABILITY.**

13 *Section 113(c)(1)(B) shall apply with respect to any*
 14 *action or proceeding that is pending on or commenced on*
 15 *or after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

16 **SEC. 124. SEVERABILITY.**

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

21 **SEC. 125. PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S SPORTS AND OLYMPIC**
 22 **SPORTS.**

23 (a) *IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic associa-*
 24 *tion or conference comprised of Division I institutions, as*
 25 *defined by bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic*

1 *Association, or a successor bylaw, shall not reduce the min-*
 2 *imum intercollegiate athletic competitions, minimum par-*
 3 *ticipants on a varsity sports team, or the number of varsity*
 4 *sports teams, including the number of men's and women's*
 5 *varsity sports teams or Olympic varsity sports teams, that*
 6 *an institution must sponsor for membership within—*

7 (1) *Division I of the National Collegiate Athletic*
 8 *Association, as defined by bylaw 20.9 of the National*
 9 *Collegiate Athletic Association, or a successor bylaw;*
 10 *or*

11 (2) *the Football Bowl Subdivision, as defined by*
 12 *bylaw 20.9.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Asso-*
 13 *ciation, or successor bylaw.*

14 (b) *LARGE-SIZED INSTITUTIONS.—*

15 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-*
 16 *graph (2), an intercollegiate athletic association or*
 17 *conference comprised of institutions shall provide that*
 18 *each institution shall, consistent with applicable*
 19 *intercollegiate athletic association rules, offer and*
 20 *maintain at least as many total grant-in-aid oppor-*
 21 *tunities and roster spots for non-revenue generating*
 22 *intercollegiate sports programs, including women's*
 23 *and Olympic intercollegiate sports programs, during*
 24 *each academic year as the member institution pro-*
 25 *vided during academic year 2024–2025.*

(2) *WAIVER.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*An institution may be granted a waiver from compliance with paragraph (1) for not more than one academic year at a time by an intercollegiate athletic association if the institution provides evidence that—*

(i) *annual athletics revenues have declined not less than 15 percent based on the average of the preceding three academic years, and total grant-in-aid accounts for not less than 45 percent of the total expenses of the athletic department of the institution;*

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

(iii) *there are extraordinary circumstances relating to financial hardship, including from a natural disaster, act of war, or another catastrophe, that are beyond the control of the institution or materially impair the ability of the institution to comply with paragraph (1).*

(B) *CONDITION.*—*As a condition of seeking a waiver under subparagraph (A)(i), an institution shall first reduce the total compensation of*

1 *the coaching staff of its revenue-generating var-*
 2 *sity sports programs by the same proportion as*
 3 *any planned reduction in expenditures for its*
 4 *non-revenue generating intercollegiate sports pro-*
 5 *grams during the waiver period.*

6 (3) *DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:*

7 (A) *INSTITUTION.—The term “institution”*
 8 *means an institution, as defined by bylaw 20.9*
 9 *of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, or*
 10 *a successor bylaw, that, upon the date of the en-*
 11 *actment of this Act, reports, as required under*
 12 *section 485(g) of the Higher Education Act of*
 13 *1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092(g)), having generated not*
 14 *less than \$80,000,000 in total annual athletics*
 15 *revenue during the preceding academic year.*

16 (B) *NON-REVENUE GENERATING INTER-*
 17 *COLLEGIATE SPORTS PROGRAM.—the term “non-*
 18 *revenue generating intercollegiate sports pro-*
 19 *gram” means an intercollegiate sports program*
 20 *at an institution for which, during an academic*
 21 *year, the revenues generated specifically attrib-*
 22 *utable to that sports program are less than the*
 23 *direct and allocated operating expenses of that*
 24 *sports program.*

1 (4) *SUNSET.*—*This subsection shall terminate on*
 2 *the date that is 9 years after the date of the enact-*
 3 *ment of this Act.*

4 (c) *TRANSITIONAL PROTECTION FOR WOMEN’S AND*
 5 *OLYMPIC SPORTS AT MID-SIZED INSTITUTIONS.*—

6 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in para-*
 7 *graph (2), an intercollegiate athletic association or*
 8 *conference comprised of covered mid-sized institutions*
 9 *shall provide that each such institution shall, con-*
 10 *sistent with applicable intercollegiate athletic associa-*
 11 *tion rules, offer and maintain at least as many total*
 12 *grant-in-aid opportunities and roster spots for non-*
 13 *revenue generating intercollegiate sports programs,*
 14 *including women’s and Olympic intercollegiate sports*
 15 *programs, during each academic year as the institu-*
 16 *tion provided during academic year 2024–2025.*

17 (2) *EXEMPTIONS.*—*An institution shall be ex-*
 18 *empt from the requirement under paragraph (1) for*
 19 *an academic year if—*

20 (A) *the total annual athletics revenue of the*
 21 *institution, as reported under section 485(g) of*
 22 *the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.*
 23 *1092(g)), declined by not less than 15 percent*
 24 *from the immediately preceding academic year;*

1 (B) the institution petitions the relevant
 2 intercollegiate athletic association for, and is
 3 granted, an exemption based on a demonstrable
 4 financial hardship;

5 (C) compliance with that paragraph would
 6 materially impair the ability of the institution
 7 to comply with Federal law; or

8 (D) there are extraordinary circumstances
 9 relating to financial hardship, including from a
 10 natural disaster, act of war, or other cir-
 11 cumstance that is beyond the control of the insti-
 12 tution or materially impair the ability of the in-
 13 stitution to comply with that paragraph.

14 (3) COVERED MID-SIZED INSTITUTION DE-
 15 FINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered mid-
 16 sized institution” means an institution, as defined by
 17 bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Asso-
 18 ciation, or a successor bylaw, that, upon the date of
 19 the enactment of this Act, reports, as required under
 20 section 485(g) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
 21 (20 U.S.C. 1092(g)), having generated not less than
 22 \$50,000,000 but less than \$80,000,000 in total annual
 23 athletics revenue during the preceding academic year.

1 (4) *SUNSET.*—*This subsection shall terminate on*
 2 *the date that is 4 years after the date of the enact-*
 3 *ment of this Act.*

4 (d) *CLARIFICATION OF WALK-ON ATHLETE ELIGI-*
 5 *BILITY FOR PARA ATHLETES.*—

6 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Notwithstanding any provi-*
 7 *sion of this Act—*

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

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

17 (C) *para athletes included as walk-on ath-*
 18 *letes shall not be counted toward any roster cap*
 19 *or scholarship count established for that inter-*
 20 *collegiate sport.*

21 (2) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this subsection:*

22 (A) *PARA ATHLETE.*—*The term “para ath-*
 23 *lete” means a nationally or internationally clas-*
 24 *sified athlete eligible to compete in the*
 25 *Paralympic Games pursuant to qualifications*

1 *determined by the United States Olympic and*
 2 *Paralympic Committee under chapter 2205 of*
 3 *title 36, United States Code.*

4 *(B) WALK-ON ATHLETE.—The term “walk-*
 5 *on athlete” means an enrolled student athlete*
 6 *who participates on a sport roster without re-*
 7 *ceiving athletics-based scholarship aid.*

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

11 *(a) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic associa-*
 12 *tion, of which a mid-sized conference is a member, shall*
 13 *ensure any board of directors or other governing board of*
 14 *the intercollegiate athletic association, or any committee of*
 15 *the intercollegiate athletic association with authority to es-*
 16 *tablish and enforce rules or bylaws, is comprised of ade-*
 17 *quate representation by mid-sized conferences.*

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

TITLE II—SPORTS BROADCASTING

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

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

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

(1) by redesignating sections 5 and 6 (15 U.S.C. 1295, 1291 *note*) as sections 8 and 9, respectively; and

(2) in section 8, as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “As used in this Act, ‘persons’ means” and inserting the following: “As used in this Act:”

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

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

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

1 “(2) *CONFERENCE*.—The term ‘conference’ means
2 any organization that is not an intercollegiate ath-
3 letic association and that—

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

6 “(B) arranges championships for intercolle-
7 giate athletic competitions or sets rules for inter-
8 collegiate athletic competitions.

9 “(3) *COVERED ENTITY*.—The term ‘covered enti-
10 ty’ means the entity formed by a joint agreement of
11 institutions or conferences described in subparagraph
12 (A) or (B) of section 5(b)(1) that meets each of the
13 requirements under section 5.

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

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

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

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

1 “(B) does not include compensation paid to
2 an individual who is a student athlete or a
3 former student athlete.

4 “(5) INSTITUTION.—The term ‘institution’ has
5 the meaning given the term ‘institution of higher edu-
6 cation’ in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
7 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

8 “(6) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-
9 TION.—The term ‘intercollegiate athletic associa-
10 tion’—

11 “(A) means any organization, not-for-profit
12 corporation, association, or other group orga-
13 nized in the United States that—

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

16 “(I) are located in different
17 States; or

18 “(II) participate in intercollegiate
19 athletic competitions in more than 1
20 State;

21 “(ii) sponsors or arranges intercolle-
22 giate athletic competitions between institu-
23 tions;

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

1 *tration of intercollegiate athletic competi-*
 2 *tion; and*

3 *“(iv) is not a conference;*

4 *“(B) includes—*

5 *“(i) the National Collegiate Athletic*
 6 *Association; and*

7 *“(ii) any other national intercollegiate*
 8 *athletic association; and*

9 *“(C) does not include a corporation, asso-*
 10 *ciation, or other group affiliated with profes-*
 11 *sional athletic competition.*

12 *“(7) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC COMPETI-*
 13 *TION.—The term ‘intercollegiate athletic competition’*
 14 *means any varsity intercollegiate sport contest, game,*
 15 *meet, match, tournament, regatta, or other intercolle-*
 16 *giate sport event in which student athletes or varsity*
 17 *sports teams compete.*

18 *“(8) INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.—The term*
 19 *‘intercollegiate football’ means the intercollegiate sport*
 20 *of football.*

21 *“(9) INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT.—The term*
 22 *‘intercollegiate sport’—*

23 *“(A) means a sport played at the intercolle-*
 24 *giate level, administered by an athletic depart-*
 25 *ment, between institutions for which eligibility*

1 *requirements for participation by a student ath-*
 2 *lete are established by an intercollegiate athletic*
 3 *association; and*

4 *“(B) does not include a recreational, intra-*
 5 *mural, or club sport.*

6 *“(10) MEMBER CONFERENCE.—The term ‘mem-*
 7 *ber conference’, with respect to the covered entity,*
 8 *means a conference that is a member of the covered*
 9 *entity.*

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

14 *(C) by inserting after paragraph (12), as so*
 15 *redesignated, the following:*

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

18 *“(A) is enrolled as a full-time student at an*
 19 *institution;*

20 *“(B) makes satisfactory progress towards*
 21 *completing a degree; and*

22 *“(C) participates in intercollegiate athletic*
 23 *competitions or competes for a varsity sports*
 24 *team as part of the institution’s educational, de-*
 25 *velopmental, or extracurricular programs.*

1 “(14) *TOP 5 HISTORIC OPPONENTS IN INTER-*
 2 *COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.*—*The term ‘top 5 historic op-*
 3 *ponents in intercollegiate football’, with respect to an*
 4 *institution, means the 5 other institutions against*
 5 *which the institution has played the most intercolle-*
 6 *giate athletic competitions within intercollegiate foot-*
 7 *ball.*

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

15 “(16) *TRADITIONAL RIVALRY.*—*The term ‘tradi-*
 16 *tional rivalry’ means an intercollegiate athletic com-*
 17 *petition within intercollegiate football that is between*
 18 *varsity sports teams of 2 institutions that—*

19 “(A) *are both members of the covered entity;*

20 “(B) *are not members of the same con-*
 21 *ference; and*

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

24 “(17) *VARSITY SPORTS TEAM.*—*The term ‘varsity*
 25 *sports team’ means a team composed of student ath-*

1 *letes that is organized by an institution for the pur-*
 2 *pose of intercollegiate athletic competitions.”.*

3 **SEC. 202. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY FOR TRANSMISSION OF**
 4 **COLLEGIATE SPORTS COMPETITIONS.**

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

7 (1) *by striking “That the” and inserting the fol-*
 8 *lowing:*

9 **“SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS FROM**
 10 **ANTITRUST LAWS.**

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

12 (2) *by adding at the end the following:*

13 “(b) *COLLEGE SPORTS.*—*The antitrust laws, as de-*
 14 *finied in subsection (a), shall not apply to any joint agree-*
 15 *ment, by or among institutions engaging in or conducting*
 16 *organized intercollegiate sports, or conferences that have*
 17 *such institutions as members, to form and operate a covered*
 18 *entity that complies with and enforces the requirements of*
 19 *section 5 and sells or otherwise transfers to a third party*
 20 *all or any part of the rights of the institutions or con-*
 21 *ferences in the sponsored telecasting of the intercollegiate*
 22 *athletic competitions engaged in or conducted by the insti-*
 23 *tutions or conferences.”.*

24 (b) *TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—
 25 *The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is amended—*

1 (1) *in section 2 (15 U.S.C. 1292)—*

2 (A) *by striking “Section 1” and inserting*

3 *“Section 1(a)”*; *and*

4 (B) *by striking “in section 1” and inserting*

5 *“in section 1(a)”*;

6 (2) *in section 3 (15 U.S.C. 1293), by striking*

7 *“section 1” each place it appears and inserting “sec-*

8 *tion 1(a)”*; *and*

9 (3) *in section 4 (15 U.S.C. 1294), by striking*

10 *“section 1” and inserting “section 1(a)”.*

11 **SEC. 203. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTITIES SELLING MEDIA**

12 **RIGHTS.**

13 *The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961, as amended by*

14 *section 201(b)(1) of this Act, is amended by inserting after*

15 *section 4 (15 U.S.C. 1294) the following:*

16 **“SEC. 5. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTITIES SELLING MEDIA**

17 **RIGHTS.**

18 *“(a) CONDITION ON ANTITRUST EXEMPTION.—Section*

19 *1(b) shall not apply to any joint agreement entered into*

20 *by institutions or conferences to form the covered entity un-*

21 *less the covered entity complies with the requirements under*

22 *this section and section 6.*

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

24 *“(1) ELIGIBLE MEMBERSHIP.—A joint agree-*

25 *ment to form the covered entity shall be comprised of*

1 *a voluntary association of institutions or conferences*
 2 *that includes, at a minimum, as of the date on which*
 3 *the joint agreement is entered into, not less than 75*
 4 *percent of the institutions participating in the Foot-*
 5 *ball Bowl Subdivision, as defined by Bylaw 20.9.9 of*
 6 *the National Collegiate Athletic Association.*

7 “(2) *INVITATION REQUIREMENT.*—

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

15 “(B) *OPTIONAL PARTICIPATION.*—*No con-*
 16 *ference or institution shall be required to join the*
 17 *covered entity or accept an offer under subpara-*
 18 *graph (A), but no conference or institution eligi-*
 19 *ble for membership under subparagraph (A) may*
 20 *be refused an invitation to join the covered enti-*
 21 *ty.*

22 “(c) *VOTING RIGHTS.*—

23 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—

1 “(A) *VOTES OF CONFERENCES AND INSTITU-*
 2 *TIONS.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the cov-*
 3 *ered entity shall—*

4 “(i) *in the bylaws of the covered enti-*
 5 *ty—*

6 “(I) *provide that each member*
 7 *conference or member institution has 1*
 8 *vote on each type of decision or deter-*
 9 *mination described in paragraph (2);*
 10 *and*

11 “(II) *specify the minimum num-*
 12 *ber of votes required for each type of*
 13 *decision or determination described in*
 14 *paragraph (2); and*

15 “(ii) *require the bylaws to be adopted*
 16 *unanimously by the member conferences*
 17 *and member institutions.*

18 “(B) *VOTES OF STUDENT ATHLETES.—The*
 19 *covered entity shall—*

20 “(i) *for purposes of decisions and de-*
 21 *terminations described in paragraph (2)(C),*
 22 *designate not fewer than 10 individuals*
 23 *who, as of the date of designation, are stu-*
 24 *dent athletes or were student athletes during*
 25 *the preceding 10-year period; and*

1 “(ii) ensure that each individual des-
 2 ignated under clause (i) has 1 vote on a de-
 3 cision or determination described in para-
 4 graph (2)(C).

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

10 “(2) VOTING THRESHOLDS.—

11 “(A) MAJOR DECISIONS.—A major decision,
 12 as defined by the bylaws of the covered entity,
 13 shall require a vote totaling not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of
 14 the member conferences or member institutions
 15 exercising their voting rights.

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

21 “(C) REVENUE DISTRIBUTIONS OR CHANGES
 22 TO VOTING ALLOCATIONS.—A determination re-
 23 garding the allocation of collective media rights
 24 revenue or a decision to change a voting thresh-
 25 old described in this paragraph shall require a

1 *unanimous vote of the member conferences, mem-*
 2 *ber institutions, or current or former student*
 3 *athletes exercising their voting rights.*

4 “(D) *MEDIA RIGHTS REQUIREMENT.*—A de-
 5 *termination of which media rights shall be con-*
 6 *tributed to the covered entity pursuant to sub-*
 7 *section (f) shall require a unanimous vote of the*
 8 *member conferences or member institutions exer-*
 9 *cising their voting rights.*

10 “(d) *REVENUE ALLOCATION FORMULA.*—

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

15 “(A) *according to the allocation of collective*
 16 *media rights revenue most recently determined*
 17 *in accordance with subsection (c)(2)(C); and*

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

20 “(2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—The distribution of collec-
 21 *tive media rights revenue under paragraph (1)*
 22 *shall—*

23 “(A) *ensure that—*

24 “(i) *each member conference or member*
 25 *institution receives a minimum distribution*

1 *of collective media rights revenue, the*
2 *amount of which shall be established under*
3 *a bylaw adopted in accordance with sub-*
4 *section (c)(2)(C); and*

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

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

23 “(C) *distribute the collective media rights*
24 *revenue that remains after compliance with sub-*
25 *paragraphs (A) and (B) to member institutions*

1 *based on the performance of each institution dur-*
 2 *ing the academic year with respect to the institu-*
 3 *tion’s contribution to the collective media rights*
 4 *revenue.*

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

12 “(e) *PROTECTION OF WOMEN’S AND OLYMPIC*
 13 *SPORTS.*—

14 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Any member institution that*
 15 *receives collective media rights revenue shall, con-*
 16 *sistent with applicable intercollegiate athletic associa-*
 17 *tion rules, offer and maintain at least as many*
 18 *grant-in-aid opportunities and roster spots for non-*
 19 *revenue generating intercollegiate sports programs,*
 20 *including women’s and Olympic intercollegiate sports*
 21 *programs, during each academic year as the member*
 22 *institution provided during the 2024–2025 academic*
 23 *year.*

24 “(2) *DEFINITION.*—*For purposes of this sub-*
 25 *section, the term ‘non-revenue generating intercolle-*

1 *giate sports program’ means an intercollegiate sports*
 2 *program at an institution for which, during an aca-*
 3 *demic year, the revenues generated specifically attrib-*
 4 *utable to that sports program are less than the direct*
 5 *and allocated operating expenses of that sports pro-*
 6 *gram.*

7 “(f) *CONTRIBUTION OF MEDIA RIGHTS.*—

8 “(1) *CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION.*—*The cov-*
 9 *ered entity shall require each member institution or*
 10 *member conference, as a condition of receiving a dis-*
 11 *tribution of collective media rights revenue from the*
 12 *covered entity, to contribute to the covered entity, for*
 13 *sale by the covered entity, the media rights of the*
 14 *member institution or member conference, determined*
 15 *by a vote described in subsection (c)(2)(D), with the*
 16 *exception of the rights in the sponsored telecasting of*
 17 *the basketball tournaments organized by the National*
 18 *Collegiate Athletic Association.*

19 “(2) *EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY.*—*The covered enti-*
 20 *ty shall have the exclusive authority to negotiate, sell,*
 21 *license, sublicense, and otherwise transfer on a pooled*
 22 *basis media rights contributed under paragraph (1),*
 23 *with the exception of the rights in the sponsored tele-*
 24 *casting of the basketball tournaments organized by the*
 25 *National Collegiate Athletic Association.*

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

6 “(4) *PRESERVATION OF CARRIAGE, DISTRIBUTION,*
 7 *AND PROMOTION OF WOMEN’S AND OLYMPIC*
 8 *SPORTS.*—*In any joint agreement entered into by a*
 9 *covered entity which includes media rights in football*
 10 *or basketball conveyed pursuant to a vote described in*
 11 *subsection (c)(2)(D), the covered entity shall take rea-*
 12 *sonable efforts to promote and distribute the media*
 13 *rights for non-revenue generating intercollegiate*
 14 *sports programs in the regular season and post-sea-*
 15 *son, as well as preserve the current levels of carriage,*
 16 *distribution, and promotion.*

17 “(g) *PRESERVATION OF CONFERENCE OPPONENTS AND*
 18 *TRADITIONAL RIVALRIES.*—

19 “(1) *CONFERENCE OPPONENTS.*—*If, as of the*
 20 *date of enactment of the Protect College Sports Act of*
 21 *2026, more than 6 of the top 10 historic opponents in*
 22 *intercollegiate football of a member institution were*
 23 *intra-conference opponents of the member institution*
 24 *in intercollegiate football during the most recently*
 25 *completed season, the covered entity shall require the*

1 *member institution to preserve, to the maximum ex-*
 2 *tent practicable, intercollegiate athletic competitions*
 3 *within intercollegiate football amongst all of its cur-*
 4 *rent conference opponents as of that date of enact-*
 5 *ment.*

6 “(2) *TRADITIONAL RIVALRIES.*—

7 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—If, as of the date of en-
 8 *actment of the Protect College Sports Act of*
 9 *2026, more than 2 of the top 10 historic oppo-*
 10 *nents in intercollegiate football of a member in-*
 11 *stitution were out-of-conference opponents of the*
 12 *member institution in intercollegiate football*
 13 *during the most recently completed season, the*
 14 *covered entity shall require the member institu-*
 15 *tion to play intercollegiate athletic competitions*
 16 *within intercollegiate football that constitute tra-*
 17 *ditional rivalries, and ensure that—*

18 “(i) *the member institution plays not*
 19 *fewer than 2 intercollegiate athletic com-*
 20 *petitions within intercollegiate football that*
 21 *constitute a traditional rivalry every 4*
 22 *years; and*

23 “(ii) *the member institution plays not*
 24 *less than 1 intercollegiate athletic competi-*
 25 *tion within intercollegiate football each year*

1 *with an institution that is in a different*
 2 *conference and is one of the top 5 historic*
 3 *opponents in intercollegiate football of the*
 4 *member institution.*

5 “(B) INSTITUTIONS WITH FEWER THAN 4
 6 OUT-OF-CONFERENCE RIVALS.—*If a member in-*
 7 *stitution is subject to the requirements under*
 8 *subparagraph (A), and fewer than 4 of the top*
 9 *10 historic opponents of the member institution*
 10 *in intercollegiate football are member institu-*
 11 *tions that belong to a different conference, the*
 12 *member institution shall seek to comply with*
 13 *clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) to the*
 14 *extent practicable.*

15 “(C) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—*Nothing in this*
 16 *paragraph shall be construed to affect the ability*
 17 *of a member institution to engage in intercolle-*
 18 *giate athletic competitions within intercollegiate*
 19 *football against any other member institution*
 20 *within the same conference that was 1 of the top*
 21 *10 historic opponents in intercollegiate football*
 22 *of the member institution as of the date of enact-*
 23 *ment of the Protect College Sports Act of 2026.*

24 “(3) PERIODIC REVIEW; AUTHORITY TO MODIFY
 25 REQUIREMENTS.—*8 years after the date of enactment*

1 *of the Protect College Sports Act of 2026, and periodi-*
 2 *cally thereafter, but not more frequently than once*
 3 *every 4 years, the covered entity—*

4 “(A) *may review the effects of the require-*
 5 *ments under this subsection on fan interest, stu-*
 6 *dent athletes, media revenues, and preservation*
 7 *of traditional rivalries and historic opponents;*
 8 *and*

9 “(B) *may modify the requirements under*
 10 *this subsection.*

11 “(h) *ENFORCEMENT OF THE ACT; RIGHT TO CURE.—*

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

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

23 “(A) *not later than 1 year before bringing*
 24 *the civil action, the person provides to the de-*

1 *fendant specific notice of the violation and an*
 2 *opportunity to cure the violation; and*

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

6 *“(i) PARTICIPATION IN COVERED ENTITY OPTIONAL.—*

7 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act shall,*
 8 *under Federal or State law, establish or be construed*
 9 *to require, mandate, or encourage any institution or*
 10 *conference to join, participate in, or transfer any*
 11 *media rights to the covered entity or to create or give*
 12 *rise to any duty, obligation, or standard of care to*
 13 *take such action.*

14 *“(2) EFFECT ON LIABILITY.—Nothing in this*
 15 *Act, any amendments made by this Act, or a decision*
 16 *by an institution or conference to decline to join or*
 17 *participate in the covered entity may be used to sup-*
 18 *port any claim, cause of action, or theory of liability*
 19 *under Federal or State law that would impose liabil-*
 20 *ity on an institution or conference or compel an in-*
 21 *stitution 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 to*
 25 *abrogate, terminate, or modify a contract or other le-*

1 *gally enforceable agreement in effect on the date of en-*
 2 *actment of the Protect College Sports Act of 2026, or*
 3 *to provide a defense to or immunity from a claim*
 4 *arising from breach or nonperformance of such con-*
 5 *tract or legally enforceable agreement.”.*

6 **SEC. 204. MARKET LEVEL BROADCAST ACCESS FOR COL-**
 7 **LEGE FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL.**

8 *The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is amended by*
 9 *inserting after section 5 (as added by section 203 of this*
 10 *Act) the following:*

11 **“SEC. 6. MARKET-LEVEL BROADCAST ACCESS FOR COLLEGE**
 12 **FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL.**

13 *“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

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

18 *“(2) LOCAL DESIGNATED MARKET AREA.—*

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

21 *“(i) consists of a designated market*
 22 *area that includes the principal campus of*
 23 *an institution that is a member of the cov-*
 24 *ered entity; and*

1 “(ii) *at the election of the member in-*
 2 *stitution and the applicable network, dis-*
 3 *tributor, or licensee holding market-level*
 4 *rights, may include not more than 1 addi-*
 5 *tional geographically adjacent designated*
 6 *market area, or designated market area*
 7 *within the State in which the principal*
 8 *campus of the member institution is located,*
 9 *in which a substantial portion of the stu-*
 10 *dent body, alumni, or in-State resident pop-*
 11 *ulation of the member institution resides.*

12 “(B) *PUBLICATION OF LIST.—The Federal*
 13 *Communications Commission shall—*

14 “(i) *not later than 180 days after the*
 15 *date of enactment of the Protect College*
 16 *Sports Act of 2026, publish a list of des-*
 17 *ignated market areas described in subpara-*
 18 *graph (A); and*

19 “(ii) *maintain the list described in*
 20 *clause (i) on a public website.*

21 “(3) *LOCAL OUTLET OPTION.—The term ‘Local*
 22 *Outlet option’ means the opportunity for not less than*
 23 *1 outlet to carry a live intercollegiate athletic com-*
 24 *petition without charge to viewers within the local*

1 *designated market area of a member institution that*
 2 *is participating in the competition.*

3 “(b) *REQUIREMENT OF LOCAL OUTLET OPTION.*—

4 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—As a condition of the exemp-
 5 *tion under section 1(b)(1), the covered entity shall*
 6 *make commercially available by purchase or license,*
 7 *on a non-exclusive basis, for each intercollegiate ath-*
 8 *letic competition in football or basketball, not less*
 9 *than 1 Local Outlet option in the local designated*
 10 *market area of each member institution participating*
 11 *in the competition.*

12 “(2) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in
 13 *paragraph (1) shall be construed to require carriage*
 14 *of an intercollegiate athletic competition by more*
 15 *than 1 Local Outlet in a given designated market*
 16 *area.*

17 “(3) *NO EFFECT ON NATIONAL MEDIA AGREE-*
 18 *MENTS.*—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall limit the
 19 *covered entity’s ability to negotiate nationwide or re-*
 20 *gional media agreements.*

21 “(4) *REQUIREMENT FULFILLMENT.*—A national
 22 *rights holder may satisfy the requirement under para-*
 23 *graph (1) by making intercollegiate athletic competi-*
 24 *tions available to viewers in the applicable local des-*
 25 *ignated market areas using an offering that the rights*

1 holder owns or is affiliated with that is freely avail-
2 able to viewers.

3 “(c) *GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATION.*—

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

10 “(2) *ENFORCEMENT.*—The Federal Communica-
11 tions Commission shall have jurisdiction over com-
12 plaints alleging a violation of paragraph (1).”.

13 **SEC. 205. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN CONFERENCE MERG-**
14 **ERS OR ACQUISITION.**

15 The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is amended by
16 inserting after section 6 (as added by section 204 of this
17 Act) the following:

18 **“SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN CONFERENCE MERG-**
19 **ERS AND ACQUISITIONS.**

20 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—It shall be unlawful under the
21 antitrust laws, as defined in section 1(a), for any covered
22 conference that reported more than \$700,000,000 in revenue
23 on its fiscal year 2025 tax return or any subsequent tax
24 return to merge or consolidate with, or to acquire the assets,
25 media rights (including media rights of an institution), or

1 membership of, another covered conference or of an inde-
 2 pendent institution, if as a result of the transaction, the
 3 number of institutions that are members of the covered con-
 4 ference would be less than 75 percent of the institutions par-
 5 ticipating in the Football Bowl Subdivision, as defined by
 6 Bylaw 20.9.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Associa-
 7 tion.

8 “(b) *DEFENSES NOT APPLICABLE.*—A transaction
 9 prohibited under subsection (a) may not be justified by effi-
 10 ciencies, procompetitive effects, or any other defense under
 11 the antitrust laws, as defined in section 1(a).

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

14 “(d) *DEFINITION.*—In this section, the term ‘covered
 15 conference’ means a conference, the primary athletic rev-
 16 enue of which is derived from the sale or transfer of media
 17 rights relating to intercollegiate football.”.

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

21 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 3 of the Sports Broad-
 22 casting Act of 1961 (15 U.S.C. 1293) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
 24 end;

1 (2) *in paragraph (3), by striking the period at*
 2 *the end and inserting “, and”; and*

3 (3) *by adding at the end the following:*

4 “(4) *the season and any postseason, including*
 5 *championships, of such intercollegiate football contests*
 6 *conclude not later than January 8 of any year, to the*
 7 *extent practicable.”.*

8 (b) *PROTECTION OF ARMY-NAVY GAME.*—Section 3 of
 9 *the Sports Broadcasting Act (15 U.S.C. 1293) is amend-*
 10 *ed—*

11 (1) *by inserting “(a)” before “The first sen-*
 12 *tence”; and*

13 (2) *by adding at the end the following:*

14 “(b)(1) *Section 1(b) shall not apply to any joint agree-*
 15 *ment described in that section that permits any person to*
 16 *sponsor, telecast, or authorize the telecast of any postseason*
 17 *intercollegiate football contest involving an institution par-*
 18 *ticipating in the Football Bowl Subdivision during the pro-*
 19 *tected Army-Navy Game broadcast window.*

20 “(2) *For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘pro-*
 21 *tected Army-Navy Game broadcast window’ means the pe-*
 22 *riod beginning 1 hour before scheduled kickoff and ending*
 23 *30 minutes after the official conclusion of the telecast of the*
 24 *annual football game between the United States Military*

1 *Academy and the United States Naval Academy occurring*
 2 *on the second Saturday in December in any year.”.*

3 **SEC. 207. MEDIA RIGHTS UTILIZATION REQUIREMENT FOR**
 4 **COLLEGE SPORTS OTHER THAN FOOTBALL**
 5 **AND BASKETBALL.**

6 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section, the terms “covered*
 7 *entity”, “intercollegiate athletic competition”, “member*
 8 *conference”, and “member institution” have the meanings*
 9 *given those terms in section 8 of the Sports Broadcasting*
 10 *Act, as redesignated by section 201(b)(1) of this Act.*

11 (b) *REQUIREMENT OF USE.*—*A distributor to which*
 12 *any media rights for intercollegiate athletic competitions in*
 13 *a sport other than football or basketball are sold, licensed,*
 14 *or otherwise conveyed by the covered entity or its member*
 15 *institutions or member conferences after the date of enact-*
 16 *ment of this Act shall affirmatively use those rights by mak-*
 17 *ing the competitions reasonably available to the public not*
 18 *later than 1 year after the effective date of the agreement*
 19 *under which the rights are sold, licensed, or otherwise con-*
 20 *veyed.*

21 (c) *REVERSION OF RIGHTS.*—

22 (1) *FAILURE TO USE RIGHTS; OPPORTUNITY TO*
 23 *CURE.*—*If a distributor to which media rights for*
 24 *intercollegiate athletic competitions in a sport other*
 25 *than football or basketball are sold, licensed, or other-*

1 *wise conveyed as described in subsection (b) does not*
2 *use the rights during the 1-year period beginning on*
3 *the effective date of the agreement under which the*
4 *rights are sold, licensed, or otherwise conveyed, the*
5 *covered entity, member institution, or member con-*
6 *ference notifies the distributor after the expiration of*
7 *that 1-year period of the distributor's failure to use*
8 *the rights, and the distributor does not use the rights*
9 *during the 180-day period beginning on the date of*
10 *the notification, the rights for that sport shall revert*
11 *to the originating covered entity, member institution,*
12 *or member conference.*

13 (2) *RECONVEYANCE.*—*Upon the reversion of*
14 *rights under paragraph (1), the covered entity, mem-*
15 *ber institution, or member conference may resell, reli-*
16 *cense, or otherwise reconvey the rights to another enti-*
17 *ty without penalty or liability for breach of the origi-*
18 *nal agreement described in that paragraph.*

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

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S. 4668

A BILL

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

JUNE 24, 2026

Reported with an amendment