

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 2d Sess.

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.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANT-
WELL)

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

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

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

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

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

Sec. 100. Definitions.

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

2

- Sec. 102. Modifications to Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act.
- Sec. 103. Agent registry requirements for intercollegiate athletic associations.
- Sec. 104. Disclosures and establishment of name, image, and likeness agreement database.
- Sec. 105. Academic protections.
- Sec. 106. Medical coverage requirements.
- Sec. 107. Health, wellness, and safety standards.
- Sec. 108. Office of the Student Athlete Ombudsman.
- Sec. 109. Comparable standards for access to facilities, services, and events.
- Sec. 110. Rules governing certain mid-season coaching transitions.
- Sec. 111. Student athlete representation on intercollegiate athletic association governing boards.
- Sec. 112. Transfer protections.
- Sec. 113. Eligibility to participate in intercollegiate sports.
- Sec. 114. Prohibited compensation and agreements.
- Sec. 115. Congressional approval of continuation of revenue share cap and retention fund.
- Sec. 116. Commission on the Future of College Athletics.
- Sec. 117. Recruitment and tampering.
- Sec. 118. Limitation on liability.
- Sec. 119. Private right of action.
- Sec. 120. Whistleblower protection.
- Sec. 121. Relationship to existing law.
- Sec. 122. Neutrality on employee or non-employee status.
- Sec. 123. Applicability.
- Sec. 124. Severability.
- Sec. 125. Protection of women's sports and Olympic sports.
- Sec. 126. Mid-sized conference representation on intercollegiate athletic association governing boards.
- Sec. 127. Title IX savings clause.
- Sec. 128. Protecting opportunities for American student athletes.

TITLE II—SPORTS BROADCASTING

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

TITLE III—HBCU SPORTS MEDIA AND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

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

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

4 **SEC. 100. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this title:

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

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

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

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

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

1 (i) promoting or supporting a par-
2 ticular institution's intercollegiate athletics
3 program or student athletes; or

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

7 (B) is or was a member, employee, direc-
8 tor, officer, owner, or agent of an individual or
9 entity described in subparagraph (A);

10 (C) directly or indirectly (including con-
11 tributions by an affiliated entity, individual, or
12 family member) has contributed more than
13 \$50,000 over their lifetime to a particular insti-
14 tution or to an individual or entity described in
15 subparagraph (A);

16 (D) has—

17 (i) been directed or requested by an
18 institution's athletic department staff to
19 assist in the recruitment or retention of
20 student athletes or prospective student
21 athletes; or

22 (ii) otherwise assisted in the recruit-
23 ment or retention of student athletes or
24 prospective student athletes; or

1 (E) is owned, controlled, or operated by, or
2 otherwise affiliated with the individuals or enti-
3 ties described in subparagraphs (A) through
4 (D), other than a publicly traded corporation.

5 (3) ATHLETE AGENT.—The term “athlete
6 agent” has the meaning given that term in section
7 2 of the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act
8 (15 U.S.C. 7801).

9 (4) COLLECTIVE.—The term “collective”—
10 (A) means a person, corporation, booster
11 organization, tax-exempt organization, or other
12 entity that provides donations or other support
13 directly or indirectly to or for the benefit or
14 support of—

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

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

20 (B) does not include—

21 (i) an immediate family member of a
22 student athlete; or

23 (ii) an individual or entity that—

24 (I) licenses trademark rights of
25 an institution; and

1 (II) does not—

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

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

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

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

15 (B) does not include—

16 (i) grants-in-aid;

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

23 (iii) health insurance and the costs of
24 health care funded by an institution, inter-

1 collegiate athletic association, or con-
2 ference;

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

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

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

16 (vii) enhanced education benefits, in-
17 cluding academic awards;

18 (viii) financial literacy or tax edu-
19 cation resources; or

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

23 (I) the financial terms of such
24 employment opportunities are con-
25 sistent with the terms offered to simi-

1 larly situated employees who are not
2 student athletes; and

3 (II) such program is not used to
4 induce a student athlete to attend a
5 particular institution.

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

9 (A) has 2 or more institutions as members;
10 and

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

14 (7) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—The term “cost of
15 attendance”—

16 (A) has the meaning given that term in
17 section 472 of the Higher Education Act of
18 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll); and

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

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

24 (A) a scholarship, grant, stipend, or other
25 form of financial assistance, including the provi-

1 sion of tuition, room, board, books, or funds for
2 fees or personal expenses, that—

3 (i) is paid or provided by an institu-
4 tion to a student for the undergraduate or
5 graduate education of the student; and

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

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

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

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

21 (11) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-
22 TION.—The term “intercollegiate athletic associa-
23 tion”—

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

4 (i) sponsors or arranges intercollegiate
5 athletic competition between institutions;

6 (ii) sets common rules, standards,
7 procedures, or guidelines for the adminis-
8 tration of intercollegiate athletic competi-
9 tion;

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

15 (iv) is not a conference;

16 (B) includes—

17 (i) the National Collegiate Athletic
18 Association; and

19 (ii) any other national intercollegiate
20 athletic association; and

21 (C) does not include a corporation, associa-
22 tion, or other group affiliated with professional
23 athletic competition.

24 (12) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC COMPETI-
25 TION.—The term “intercollegiate athletic competi-

1 tion” means any intercollegiate sport contest, game,
2 meet, match, tournament, regatta, or other inter-
3 collegiate sport event in which student athletes or
4 varsity sports teams compete.

5 (13) INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT.—The term
6 “intercollegiate sport”—

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

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

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

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

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

22 (C) the jersey number associated with the
23 student athlete during the period of athletic
24 participation by the student athlete at an insti-
25 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 NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June
14 6, 2025), or as modified pursuant to the amendment
15 provision specified in paragraph 55 of that settle-
16 ment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (3) EXCEPTION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (1) in section 2 (15 U.S.C. 7801)—

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

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

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

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

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

18 (2) in section 3 (15 U.S.C. 7802)—

19 (A) in subsection (a)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 “(2) actual damages.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 “(1) The contract is in writing.

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

15 “(3) The contract contains—

16 “(A) a description of services rendered;

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

19 “(C) the terms of the contract;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Sec. 9. Registration of athlete agents and other requirements.
“Sec. 10. Endorsement contract requirements.”.

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

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

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

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

14 (b) DECERTIFICATION PERMITTED.—

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

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

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

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

6 (a) DISCLOSURES BY INSTITUTIONS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (i) the amount of compensation pro-
5 vided or to be provided to the student ath-
6 lete by the institution; and

7 (ii) disaggregated by intercollegiate
8 sports program—

9 (I) the number of agreements
10 and payments;

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

13 (III) the total value of the agree-
14 ments and payments.

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

22 (A) The amount of revenues and expendi-
23 tures of each such sports program, including
24 the amount of associated entity and third-party
25 donations, Federal funds, and State funds, in-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (c) LIMITATION.—This section shall apply only to in-
23 stitutions whose primary membership is in Division I, as
24 defined by bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic
25 Association, or a successor bylaw, and shall not apply to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (c) SCHOLARSHIP PROTECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an institution that awards a grant-in-aid to a student athlete may not revoke, reduce, or condition the grant-in-aid of the student athlete—

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

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

12 (C) roster management decisions.

13 (2) EXCEPTION.—

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

17 (i) transfers to another institution; or

18 (ii) does not remain in good standing

19 in accordance with—

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

(II) the established athletics program policies for participating in

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

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

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

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

18 (D) FORMER STUDENT ATHLETES.—

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

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

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

3 (II) either—

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

9 (AA) in intercollegiate
10 athletic competition; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (B) post-eligibility medical expenses for the
10 student athletes of a member institution who
11 are diagnosed with significant long-term condi-
12 tions related to their participation in an inter-
13 collegiate sport, including chronic traumatic
14 encephalopathy and any other cognitive impair-
15 ment.

16 (2) AMOUNT OF FUND.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to increases
18 under subparagraph (B) and the limitation
19 under subparagraph (C), the intercollegiate ath-
20 letic association described in this subsection
21 shall ensure that the fund or program estab-
22 lished under this subsection is funded at an
23 amount that totals not less than \$60,000,000
24 on the first day of each academic year.

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

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

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

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

22 (1) providing or causing to be provided to stu-
23 dent athletes medical coverage in addition to the
24 medical coverage required by subsection (a); or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (d) ATHLETIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICERS.—

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

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

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

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

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

10 (e) INDEPENDENCE OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.—

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

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

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

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

4 (2) an intercollegiate athletic association, con-
5 ference, institution, or student athletes from request-
6 ing or advocating for additional health, wellness, and
7 safety standards to protect student athletes.

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

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

13 (b) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

14 (1) provide independent advice to student ath-
15 letes at no cost about the applicable requirements of
16 this title and the amendments made by this title, in-
17 cluding with respect to their rights and responsibil-
18 ities and the resources available;

19 (2) assist in the resolution of student athlete
20 concerns regarding the intercollegiate athletic asso-
21 ciation, conferences, or institutions;

22 (3) provide independent advice to student ath-
23 letes with respect to the role, responsibility, author-
24 ity, and jurisdiction of the intercollegiate athletic as-
25 sociation, conferences, or institutions;

1 (4) provide student athletes with current con-
2 tact information for external third-party resources
3 for student athletes;

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

7 (6) develop standard language to explain the
8 rights and responsibilities of student athletes under
9 this Act that institutions shall be required to con-
10 spicuously display in common areas where student
11 athletes congregate, such as locker rooms, dor-
12 mitories, or study areas, to ensure that student ath-
13 letes are properly informed of their rights, respon-
14 sibilities, and ability to contact the Ombudsman; and

15 (7) as appropriate, develop curricula to educate
16 student athletes on their rights and responsibilities
17 under this Act that is capable of being shared
18 through in person or online classes, training ses-
19 sions, or other means.

20 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—An intercollegiate athletic as-
21 sociation shall hire and provide salary, benefits, and ad-
22 ministrative expenses for an Ombudsman and support
23 staff for the Office.

24 (d) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall maintain as
2 confidential any information communicated or pro-
3 vided to the Office in confidence in any matter in-
4 volving the exercise of the official duties of the Of-
5 fice.

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

10 (3) APPLICATION.—The confidentiality require-
11 ments under this subsection shall not apply to infor-
12 mation—

13 (A) as necessary to comply with applicable
14 reporting requirements mandated by Federal
15 law;

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

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

20 (D) with the permission of the parties in-
21 volved, as necessary to resolve or mediate a dis-
22 pute.

23 (4) JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRO-
24 CEEDINGS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Ombudsman and
2 any staff of the Office shall not be compelled to
3 testify or produce evidence in any judicial or
4 administrative proceeding with respect to any
5 matter involving the exercise of the duties of
6 the Office.

7 (B) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Any memo-
8 randum, work product, notes, or case file of the
9 Office—

10 (i) shall be confidential; and

11 (ii) shall not be—

12 (I) subject to discovery, sub-
13 poena, or any other means of legal
14 compulsion; or

15 (II) admissible as evidence in a
16 judicial or administrative proceeding.

17 (5) PROHIBITION ON RETALIATION.—No em-
18 ployee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of an
19 intercollegiate athletic association, a conference, or
20 an institution shall take or threaten to take any ac-
21 tion against a student athlete as a reprisal for dis-
22 closing information to or seeking assistance from the
23 Office.

24 (e) INDEPENDENCE IN CARRYING OUT DUTIES.—

25 The board of directors or other governing board or com-

1 mittee of an intercollegiate athletic association, a con-
2 ference, or an institution shall not prevent or prohibit the
3 Office from carrying out any duty or responsibility under
4 this section.

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

7 Intercollegiate athletic associations and conferences
8 shall maintain comparable standards for medical care,
9 lodging, meals, rest, transportation, publicity and pro-
10 motion, and, if applicable, athletic facilities for champion-
11 ship events or tournaments, across similarly situated
12 men's and women's athletic programs.

13 **SEC. 110. RULES GOVERNING CERTAIN MID-SEASON**
14 **COACHING TRANSITIONS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—An individual who serves, or has
16 served at any point during a competitive season, as foot-
17 ball athletic personnel for a varsity sports team for inter-
18 collegiate football at an institution shall not, during that
19 same competitive season, perform for another institution
20 any duties or responsibilities customarily associated with
21 a head coach of a varsity sports team for intercollegiate
22 football, including, at a minimum—

23 (1) recruiting or contacting prospective or cur-
24 rent student athletes;

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

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

6 (4) facilitating, coordinating, negotiating, or
7 otherwise materially influencing name, image, and
8 likeness activities involving student athletes;

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

11 (6) participating in practice planning, game
12 preparation, strategic decision-making, or on-field
13 activities;

14 (7) publicly representing the institution in an
15 intercollegiate football-related capacity in a manner
16 that reflects or implies authority over the intercolle-
17 giate football program; and

18 (8) undertaking any other activity customarily
19 associated with a head coach of a varsity sports
20 team for intercollegiate football.

21 (b) APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply with-
22 out regard to title, formal designation, compensation
23 structure, employment status, or timing of any public an-
24 nouncement, and the applicable intercollegiate athletic as-
25 sociation may prohibit any arrangement that, in substance

1 or effect, provides an individual described in subsection
2 (a) with authority or responsibilities customarily exercised
3 by a head coach.

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

14 (d) PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.—In the
15 event an individual who accepts employment, appointment,
16 or designation as head coach of a varsity sports team for
17 intercollegiate football at another institution violates this
18 section, that individual shall be ineligible to assume the
19 duties as head coach of the varsity sports team for inter-
20 collegiate football at the hiring institution for the subse-
21 quent competitive season after the season in which the vio-
22 lation occurred and be subject to additional penalties suffi-
23 cient to ensure compliance with this section.

24 (e) APPLICATION.—This section applies only to insti-
25 tutions that compete in the Football Bowl Subdivision, as

1 defined by bylaw 20.9.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic
2 Association, or a successor bylaw.

3 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) APPLICABLE INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC
5 ASSOCIATION.—The term “applicable intercollegiate
6 athletic association” means only an intercollegiate
7 athletic association that has at least one member in-
8 stitution that is a member of the Football Bowl Sub-
9 division, as defined by bylaw 20.9.9 of the National
10 Collegiate Athletic Association, or a successor bylaw.

11 (2) COMPETITIVE SEASON.—The term “com-
12 petitive season” means the period beginning with the
13 first regularly scheduled intercollegiate athletic com-
14 petition for intercollegiate football for an institution
15 during a season and ending with the conclusion of
16 the final intercollegiate athletic competition for
17 intercollegiate football for the institution during that
18 season.

19 (3) FOOTBALL ATHLETIC PERSONNEL.—The
20 term “football athletic personnel” means any indi-
21 vidual employed by, contracted with, or otherwise
22 engaged by an institution who provides coaching, in-
23 struction, recruiting, roster management, or training
24 as the head coach or a coordinator, including an of-
25 fensive, defensive, or special teams coordinator, of

1 student athletes who are members of or participate
2 with the varsity sports team for intercollegiate foot-
3 ball of the institution.

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

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

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

12 **SEC. 111. STUDENT ATHLETE REPRESENTATION ON INTER-**
13 **COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION GOV-**
14 **ERNING BOARDS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 1/3 of the member-
16 ship and voting power of any board of directors or other
17 governing board, or committees with authority to establish
18 and enforce rules or bylaws shall be comprised of current
19 student athletes or former student athletes who have grad-
20 uated from their institution during the preceding 10-year
21 period.

22 (b) LIMITATION.—

23 (1) A former student athlete who is a current
24 or former employee of an intercollegiate athletic as-
25 sociation, a conference, or a member institution may

1 not count towards the student athlete membership
2 requirement pursuant to subsection (a); and

3 (2) no member of any such board or committee
4 shall vote on any matter that presents a conflict of
5 interest for such member.

6 **SEC. 112. TRANSFER PROTECTIONS.**

7 An institution, a conference, an intercollegiate ath-
8 letic association, or any representative of such entity shall
9 permit a student athlete to transfer from one four-year
10 institution to another four-year institution—

11 (1) once without losing or delaying eligibility to
12 participate in intercollegiate sports;

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

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

19 (A) discontinuation of a sport in which the
20 student athlete competes;

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

23 (C) sexual assault or harassment of the
24 student athlete by an individual associated with
25 the student athlete's institution; or

1 (D) the student athlete pursuing a grad-
2 uate degree.

3 **SEC. 113. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERCOLLE-**
4 **GIATE SPORTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligible to partici-
6 pate on a Division I or Division II (as defined by bylaw
7 20 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, or a
8 successor bylaw) varsity sports team or in intercollegiate
9 athletic competition for a Division I or Division II institu-
10 tion (as defined by bylaw 20 of the National Collegiate
11 Athletic Association, or a successor bylaw) if the indi-
12 vidual—

13 (1) is a student athlete;

14 (2) meets uniform academic standards estab-
15 lished by the relevant intercollegiate athletic associa-
16 tion, conference, or institution;

17 (3) is not a professional athlete; and

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

20 (b) YEARS OF ELIGIBILITY.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a
22 student athlete is eligible to compete in intercolle-
23 giate athletic competition for a Division I or Division
24 II institution (as defined by bylaw 20 of the Na-
25 tional Collegiate Athletic Association, or a successor

1 bylaw) for a maximum of 5 calendar years beginning
2 on, whichever occurs first—

3 (A) the beginning of the academic year fol-
4 lowing the 19th birthday of the student athlete;
5 or

6 (B) the date the student athlete initially
7 enrolls full time at an institution.

8 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) does not
9 apply during a period of absence for any of the fol-
10 lowing:

11 (A) Reasons of pregnancy.

12 (B) Religious mission.

13 (C) Active-duty military service.

14 (D) Other periods of absence, which may
15 include serious athletic injury or medical condi-
16 tion, adopted by rule or bylaw by an intercolle-
17 giate athletic association that apply uniformly
18 to all student athletes.

19 (c) RESTRICTIONS ON ELIGIBILITY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic
21 association or a conference may restrict the eligi-
22 bility of a student athlete to participate in intercolle-
23 giate sports if the student athlete—

24 (A) used an illegal or performance enhanc-
25 ing drug; or

1 (B) participated in sports wagering activi-
2 ties or sports-related event contracts.

3 (2) CODE OF CONDUCT.—An institution may
4 restrict the eligibility of a student athlete to partici-
5 pate in intercollegiate sports if the student athlete
6 violated the code of conduct of the institution that
7 applies to all students.

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

10 (1) a student athlete who competes in basket-
11 ball shall not be considered a professional athlete
12 based on their participation in athletic competitions
13 prior to, whichever occurs first—

14 (A) the 19th birthday of the student ath-
15 lete; or

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

18 (2) a student athlete who competes in a sport
19 other than football or basketball shall not be consid-
20 ered a professional athlete based solely on the
21 amount of prize money the student athlete received
22 based on place finish or performance in an athletic
23 event before or after enrollment in an institution, so
24 long as—

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

3 (B) the sponsor of the athletics event is
4 not an institution, employee of an institution,
5 volunteer of an institution, collective, or an as-
6 sociated entity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (a) CERTAIN AGREEMENTS AND COMPENSATION
7 PROHIBITED.—

8 (1) PROHIBITION.—An institution, an employee
9 of an institution, a volunteer of an institution, a con-
10 ference, an employee of a conference, or an associ-
11 ated entity shall not—

12 (A) except as provided in paragraph (2)
13 and subsection (b), arrange, provide, offer, or
14 permit, directly or indirectly, compensation in
15 an amount that would circumvent or result in
16 the institution exceeding the revenue share cap
17 to—

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

20 (ii) a prospective student athlete, a
21 group of prospective student athletes, or
22 their family members;

23 (B) except for a name, image, and likeness
24 agreement between a student athlete and an in-
25 stitution or between a prospective student ath-

1 lete and an institution, enter into a name,
2 image, and likeness agreement with a student
3 athlete or prospective student athlete that is
4 not—

5 (i) for a valid business purpose; and

6 (ii) commensurate with compensation
7 paid by third parties to individuals with a
8 similar profile, reputation, or notability
9 who are not student athletes or prospective
10 student athletes at the institution; or

11 (C) provide compensation for any purpose
12 to a prospective student athlete prior to enroll-
13 ment in an institution, but nothing in this sub-
14 paragraph shall prohibit an institution from
15 providing compensation to attend a development
16 camp or program if that camp or program is
17 open to non-prospective student athletes and
18 such compensation does not exceed the reason-
19 able costs of attendance.

20 (2) RETENTION FUND.—

21 (A) RETENTION FUND EXCEPTION.—Ex-
22 cept as provided in subparagraph (B), an insti-
23 tution may exceed the revenue share cap by not
24 more than \$22,500,000 per academic year for
25 the purpose of retaining a student athlete or

1 group of student athletes who have spent at
2 least one full competitive season at the institu-
3 tion.

4 (B) NON-REVENUE GENERATING INTER-
5 COLLEGIATE SPORTS PROGRAMS.—

6 (i) IN GENERAL.—An institution may
7 further exceed the revenue share cap for
8 the purpose described in subparagraph (A)
9 by up to an additional \$5,000,000 per aca-
10 demic year in proportion to the amount of
11 name, image, and likeness compensation
12 provided by the institution through the
13 revenue share cap described in subsection
14 (a)(1) and the retention fund amount de-
15 scribed in subparagraph (A) to a student
16 athlete or group of student athletes com-
17 peting in non-revenue generating intercolle-
18 giate sports programs, including women's
19 and Olympic intercollegiate sports pro-
20 grams.

21 (ii) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in
22 clause (i) shall be interpreted to preclude
23 an institution from providing name, image,
24 and likeness compensation through the rev-
25 enue share cap described in subsection

1 (a)(1) and the retention fund amount de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (A) in excess of
3 \$5,000,000 to a student athlete or group
4 of student athletes competing in non-rev-
5 enue generating intercollegiate sports pro-
6 grams, including women’s and Olympic
7 intercollegiate sports programs, provided
8 such compensation complies with subpara-
9 graph (A) and subsection (a)(1).

10 (C) TIME LIMITATION.—The exception de-
11 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall apply only
12 during the nine-year period beginning on the
13 date of the enactment of this Act.

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

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

6 (2) reasonable costs for meals, shelter, medical
7 coverage, and medical expenses not provided or cov-
8 ered by the institution; or

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

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

23 (1) the multimedia rights holder shall provide a
24 signed certification to the intercollegiate athletic as-
25 sociation or its designated enforcement entity af-

1 firming that the institution in which the student
2 athlete is enrolled or plans to enroll is not the origi-
3 nating source of the compensation to be paid to the
4 student athlete or prospective student athlete and
5 that payment of the compensation is not coming di-
6 rectly or indirectly from the institution;

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

1 (3) the institution at which the student athlete
2 is enrolled or plans to enroll, if required by the
3 intercollegiate athletic association or its designated
4 enforcement entity, shall provide a signed certifi-
5 cation to the intercollegiate athletic association or its
6 designated enforcement entity that the institution is
7 not circumventing the revenue share cap through the
8 name, image, and likeness agreement, or negotiating
9 for and determining the amount of compensation to
10 be paid to the student athlete or prospective student
11 athlete through the agreement.

12 (d) VALID BUSINESS PURPOSE.—Except for a name,
13 image, and likeness agreement with an institution, a
14 name, image, and likeness agreement with a student ath-
15 lete shall be for a valid business purpose.

16 (e) PAYMENTS TO COACHES AND MANAGERS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—An institution described in
18 paragraph (2) may not compensate or otherwise pro-
19 vide or promise any type of payment or benefit of
20 more than \$500,000 to any coach, assistant coach,
21 general manager, or other person who coaches or
22 manages a varsity sports team by using, diverting,
23 budgeting, or otherwise obtaining funds from any
24 source other than college sports revenue or a dona-

1 tion or contribution to the athletic department of the
2 institution.

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

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

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

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

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

20 (a) CONTINUATION UPON CONGRESSIONAL AP-
21 PROVAL.—

22 (1) CESSATION ABSENT APPROVAL.—Except as
23 provided in paragraph (2), if the covered settlement
24 agreement expires or terminates but no joint resolu-
25 tion of approval relating to the notice of the expira-

tion or termination is enacted into law during the applicable congressional approval period, the provisions of section 114 relating to the revenue share cap, and, notwithstanding section 114(a)(2)(C), the retention fund, shall—

(A) in the case of an expiration—

(i) cease to have force or effect on the date of such expiration, if the applicable congressional approval period ends before that date; or

(ii) if the applicable congressional approval period ends after the date of such expiration, at the end of the applicable congressional approval period; or

(B) in the case of a termination, remain in effect without interruption notwithstanding such termination until, and cease to have force or effect at, the end of the applicable congressional approval period.

(2) CONTINUATION UPON APPROVAL.—If a joint resolution of approval relating to the notice of the expiration or termination is enacted into law, the provisions of section 114 relating to the revenue share cap and, only if specified in the joint resolution of approval, the retention fund, in effect imme-

1 diately before such expiration or termination or at
2 the time the notice is provided to Congress pursuant
3 to subsection (b), subject to paragraph (3), shall
4 continue in effect without interruption beginning on
5 the date of such expiration or termination.

6 (3) RECALCULATION OF REVENUE SHARE CAP
7 DOLLAR AMOUNT.—In the first 2 years following a
8 continuation under paragraph (2), the revenue share
9 cap shall increase by 4 percent each year over the
10 previous year's amount. In the third year following
11 a continuation under paragraph (2), and every 3
12 years thereafter, the revenue share cap shall be re-
13 calculated based on 22 percent of the Average
14 Shared Revenue based on the most recent Member-
15 ship Financial Reporting System Reports available,
16 or, if the covered settlement agreement is modified,
17 pursuant to the amendment provision specified in
18 paragraph 55 of that settlement, pursuant to the
19 calculation process in effect immediately before the
20 expiration or termination of the covered settlement
21 agreement or at the time the notice is provided to
22 Congress pursuant to subsection (b). In each of the
23 2 years following each such recalculation, the rev-
24 enue share cap shall increase by 4 percent each year
25 over the previous year's amount. For purposes of

1 this paragraph, all information used to calculate the
2 revenue share cap pursuant to the covered settle-
3 ment agreement, or as modified pursuant to the
4 amendment provision specified in paragraph 55 of
5 that settlement, shall be subject to a publicly avail-
6 able, independent third-party audit to verify the ac-
7 curacy of such information for purposes of com-
8 plying with this subsection.

9 (b) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—

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

24 (2) EARLY TERMINATION.—Not later than 1
25 calendar day after the date on which the defendant

1 parties to the covered settlement become aware of a
2 court order that provides for the termination of the
3 covered settlement agreement before its scheduled
4 expiration, any defendant party to the covered settle-
5 ment agreement shall transmit to the President pro
6 tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
7 of Representatives a written notice of the termi-
8 nation.

9 (3) CONTENTS.—A notice under this subsection
10 shall include—

11 (A) the scheduled, expected, or actual date
12 of the expiration or termination, if known, and
13 the basis for the expiration or termination; and

14 (B) the dollar amounts and material terms
15 of the revenue share cap in effect, or expected
16 to be in effect, immediately before the expira-
17 tion or termination.

18 (4) DATE OF RECEIPT.—Congress receives a
19 notice under this subsection on the date on which
20 both the President pro tempore of the Senate and
21 the Speaker of the House of Representatives receive
22 the notice. In the event a notice is not provided to
23 Congress under this subsection, notice shall be
24 deemed to have been received by Congress not later

1 than 3 calendar days after the date of the expiration
2 or termination of the covered settlement agreement.

3 (5) DEEMED RECEIPT.—Notwithstanding para-
4 graph (4), for purposes of this section, a notice re-
5 quired under this subsection received after the expi-
6 ration or termination of the covered settlement
7 agreement shall be deemed to have been received by
8 Congress on the date on which covered settlement
9 agreement expired or terminated.

10 (c) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—

11 (1) APPLICABLE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL
12 PERIOD.—With respect to a notice under subsection
13 (b), the term “applicable congressional approval pe-
14 riod” means the 30-calendar-day period beginning
15 on the date on which Congress receives the notice,
16 except that the congressional approval period shall
17 immediately terminate upon the passage a of a joint
18 resolution of approval by the Senate and the House
19 of Representatives.

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

23 (A) that is introduced not later than 10
24 calendar days after the date on which Congress

1 receives the notice under subsection (b) to
2 which the joint resolution relates;

3 (B) that does not have a preamble;

4 (C) the title of which is either of the fol-
5 lowing:

6 (i) “Joint resolution approving the
7 continuation of the revenue share cap and
8 retention fund under the Protect College
9 Sports Act of 2026”; or

10 (ii) “Joint resolution approving the
11 continuation of the revenue share cap
12 under the Protect College Sports Act of
13 2026”; and

14 (D) the sole matter after the resolving
15 clause of which is either of the following:

16 (i) for a joint resolution with a title
17 described in subparagraph (C)(i): “That
18 Congress approves, under section 115 of
19 the Protect College Sports Act of 2026,
20 the continuation, after the expiration or
21 termination described in the notice received
22 by Congress on _____ ,
23 of the revenue share cap and retention
24 fund in effect immediately before such ex-
25 piration or termination or at the time the

1 notice was provided to Congress pursuant
2 to subsection (b) of that section, and of the
3 provisions of section 114 of such Act relat-
4 ing to that cap and fund.”; or

5 (ii) for a joint resolution with a title
6 described in subparagraph (C)(ii): “That
7 Congress approves, under section 115 of
8 the Protect College Sports Act of 2026,
9 the continuation, after the expiration or
10 termination described in the notice received
11 by Congress on _____ ,
12 of the revenue share cap in effect imme-
13 diately before such expiration or termi-
14 nation or at the time the notice was pro-
15 vided to Congress pursuant to subsection
16 (b) of that section, and of the provisions of
17 section 114 of such Act relating to that
18 cap.”.

19 (3) DATE IN RESOLVING TEXT.—The date in-
20 serted in the blank in paragraph (2)(D)(i) or
21 (2)(D)(ii) shall be the date on which Congress re-
22 ceives the notice under subsection (b) to which the
23 joint resolution relates.

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

4 (d) FAST TRACK CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REP-
5 RESENTATIVES.—

6 (1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a notice
7 under subsection (b), the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives, if the House would otherwise be ad-
9 jourled, shall notify the Members of the House that,
10 pursuant to this section, the House shall convene
11 not later than the second calendar day after receipt
12 of the notice.

13 (2) REFERRAL, REPORTING, AND DISCHARGE.—
14 A joint resolution of approval introduced in the
15 House of Representatives shall be referred to the
16 Committee on Energy and Commerce. The com-
17 mittee shall report the joint resolution to the House
18 not later than 10 calendar days after the date on
19 which Congress receives the notice under subsection
20 (b) to which the joint resolution relates. If the com-
21 mittee fails to report the joint resolution within that
22 period, the committee shall be discharged from fur-
23 ther consideration of the joint resolution and the
24 joint resolution shall be referred to the appropriate
25 calendar.

1 (3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After
2 the committee referred to in paragraph (2) reports
3 a joint resolution of approval to the House or is dis-
4 charged from its consideration, it shall be in order,
5 not later than the 16th day after the date on which
6 Congress receives the notice under subsection (b) to
7 which the joint resolution relates, to move to proceed
8 to consider the joint resolution in the House. All
9 points of order against the motion are waived. Such
10 a motion shall not be in order after the House has
11 disposed of a motion to proceed on the joint resolu-
12 tion. The previous question shall be considered as
13 ordered on the motion to its adoption without inter-
14 vening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A
15 motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion
16 is disposed of shall not be in order.

17 (4) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolution
18 shall be considered as read. All points of order
19 against the joint resolution and against its consider-
20 ation are waived. The previous question shall be con-
21 sidered as ordered on the joint resolution to its pas-
22 sage without intervening motion except 2 hours of
23 debate equally divided and controlled by the pro-
24 ponent and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the

1 vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be
2 in order.

3 (e) FAST TRACK CONSIDERATION IN SENATE.—

4 (1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a notice
5 under subsection (b), if the Senate has adjourned or
6 recessed for more than 2 days, the majority leader
7 of the Senate, after consultation with the minority
8 leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the
9 Senate that, pursuant to this section, the Senate
10 shall convene not later than the fifteenth calendar
11 day after receipt of the notice.

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

15 (3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—It is in order at any
17 time during the period beginning on the 10th
18 day after the date on which Congress receives
19 the notice under subsection (b) to which the
20 joint resolution relates to move to proceed to
21 the consideration of the joint resolution. The
22 motion to proceed is privileged and not debat-
23 able. All points of order against the joint reso-
24 lution and against consideration of the joint
25 resolution are waived. The motion is not subject

1 to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider
2 the vote by which the motion is agreed to or
3 disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion
4 to proceed to the consideration of the joint reso-
5 lution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall re-
6 main the unfinished business until disposed of.

7 (B) DEBATE.—Except as otherwise pro-
8 vided in this paragraph, the joint resolution
9 shall be debatable and shall be subject to rule
10 XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate. If
11 cloture is invoked on the joint resolution, post-
12 cloture consideration of the joint resolution
13 shall be limited to not more than 10 hours,
14 which shall be divided equally between the ma-
15 jority and minority leaders or their designees.
16 After cloture is invoked, a motion further to
17 limit debate is in order and not debatable. An
18 amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a
19 motion to proceed to the consideration of other
20 business, or a motion to recommit, the joint
21 resolution is not in order.

22 (C) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—After cloture is
23 invoked on the joint resolution, the vote on pas-
24 sage shall occur immediately following the con-
25 clusion of the period of post-cloture consider-

1 ation under subparagraph (B) and, if requested
2 in accordance with the rules of the Senate, a
3 single quorum call.

4 (D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCE-
5 DURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair
6 relating to the application of the rules of the
7 Senate to the procedure relating to a joint reso-
8 lution shall be decided without debate.

9 (f) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES.—

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

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

19 (B) With respect to the joint resolution of
20 the House receiving the joint resolution—

21 (i) the procedure in that House shall
22 be the same as if no joint resolution had
23 been received from the other House; but

24 (ii) the vote on passage shall be on
25 the joint resolution of the other House.

1 (2) TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF
2 OTHER HOUSE.—If one House fails to introduce or
3 consider a joint resolution of approval under this
4 section, the joint resolution of approval of the other
5 House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures
6 under this section.

7 (3) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—
8 If, following passage of a joint resolution of approval
9 in the Senate, the Senate then receives the com-
10 panion measure from the House of Representatives,
11 the companion measure shall not be debatable.

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

15 (A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power
16 of the Senate and the House of Representa-
17 tives, respectively, and as such are deemed a
18 part of the rules of each House, respectively,
19 but applicable only with respect to the proce-
20 dure to be followed in that House in the case
21 of a joint resolution of approval, and supersede
22 other rules only to the extent that they are in-
23 consistent with such rules; and

24 (B) with full recognition of the constitu-
25 tional right of either House to change the rules,

1 so far as relating to the procedure of that
2 House, at any time, in the same manner and to
3 the same extent as in the case of any other rule
4 of that House.

5 (g) COVERED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT DE-
6 FINED.—In this section, the term “covered settlement
7 agreement” means the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agree-
8 ment approved by the court in “In Re College Athlete NIL
9 Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025)
10 or as modified pursuant to the amendment provision speci-
11 fied in paragraph 55 of that settlement.

12 **SEC. 116. COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF COLLEGE ATH-**
13 **LETICS.**

14 (a) COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF COLLEGE ATH-
15 LETICS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within
17 the legislative branch a commission, to be known as
18 the “Congressional Commission on the Future of
19 College Athletics” (referred to in this section as the
20 “Commission”), for the purpose of providing rec-
21 ommendations on the future of college athletics.

22 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the commission
23 is to provide recommendations for the future of col-
24 lege athletics.

25 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

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

4 (A) 4 members shall be appointed by the
5 chair of the Committee on Commerce, Science,
6 and Transportation, of which at least 1 member
7 shall be a student athlete or former student
8 athlete;

9 (B) 4 members shall be appointed by the
10 ranking member of the Committee on Com-
11 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
12 ate, of which at least 1 member shall be a stu-
13 dent athlete or former student athlete;

14 (C) 4 members shall be appointed by the
15 chair of the Committee on Energy and Com-
16 merce of the House of Representatives, of which
17 at least 1 member shall be a student athlete or
18 former student athlete;

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

24 (E) 1 member shall be a current or former
25 student athlete appointed by the majority leader

1 of the Senate, in consultation with the chair of
2 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
3 Transportation of the Senate;

4 (F) 1 member shall be a current or former
5 student athlete appointed by the minority leader
6 of the Senate, in consultation with the ranking
7 member of the Committee on Commerce,
8 Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

9 (G) 1 member shall be a current or former
10 student athlete appointed by Speaker of the
11 House of Representatives, in consultation with
12 the chair of the Committee on Energy and
13 Commerce of the House of Representatives;

14 (H) 1 member shall be a current or former
15 student athlete appointed by the minority leader
16 of the House of Representatives, in consultation
17 with the ranking member of the Committee on
18 Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives;

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

23 (J) 1 member shall be a representative of
24 a historically Black college or university, ap-

1 pointed by the Speaker of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives;

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

6 (L) 1 member shall be a representative of
7 a mid-sized conference, appointed by the Speak-
8 er of the House of Representatives.

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

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

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

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

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

23 (B) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—
24 The co-chairs of the Commission shall appoint

1 an executive director of the Commission and
2 such staff as appropriate, with compensation.

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

9 (5) MID-SIZED CONFERENCE DEFINED.—In
10 this subsection, the term “mid-sized conference”
11 means any conference that has generated less than
12 \$500,000,000 in total annual revenue during the
13 preceding academic year.

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

16 (1) hold such hearings and sit and act at such
17 times and places, take such testimony, receive such
18 evidence, and administer such oaths as the Commis-
19 sion considers relevant to the purpose of the Com-
20 mission; and

21 (2) require, by subpoena issued upon a majority
22 vote of the Commission, the attendance and testi-
23 mony of such witnesses and the production of such
24 books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers,
25 and documents as the Commission considers relevant

1 to the purpose of the Commission, provided that the
2 Commission shall take such action as may be nec-
3 essary and appropriate to preserve the confiden-
4 tiality of trade secrets or other confidential informa-
5 tion of conferences, intercollegiate athletic associa-
6 tions, institutions, or other entities the Commission
7 deems appropriate.

8 (d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Commission are as
9 follows:

10 (1) To study and develop recommendations re-
11 garding—

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

18 (B) protecting and preserving athletic op-
19 portunities for student athletes, particularly in
20 non-revenue generating, women's, and Olympic
21 sports intercollegiate athletic programs;

22 (C) whether any intercollegiate sport
23 should be subject to spending or cost limita-
24 tions;

1 (D) whether to eliminate, extend, or
2 change the revenue share cap and retention
3 fund described in section 114(a)(2), including
4 consideration of the calculation of the revenue
5 share cap and additional categories of revenue
6 that should be included in such calculation;

7 (E) compliance with endorsement contract
8 reporting requirements established by an ath-
9 letic association or a conference;

10 (F) adequacy of health and safety stand-
11 ards established pursuant to this title and com-
12 pliance with those standards by institutions, in-
13 cluding consideration of options for increased
14 oversight (including by a third-party oversight
15 organization) to improve compliance and en-
16 forcement of such standards;

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

19 (H) the extent to which student athletes
20 experience abuse or mistreatment and measures
21 that could protect student athletes from such
22 abuse or mistreatment, including consideration
23 of options for greater oversight (including by a
24 third-party oversight organization) to reduce in-
25 stances of abuse and mistreatment;

1 (I) the benefits of the intercollegiate ath-
2 letic system, including consideration of how the
3 balance of education and athletics impacts the
4 life skills, educational opportunities, leadership
5 skills, character development, and personal
6 growth of the student athlete;

7 (J) within the Student Athlete Retention
8 Council established under subsection (e), wheth-
9 er the retention fund exception under section
10 114(a)(2)(A) should be adjusted after the date
11 of the enactment of this Act, and if so, the
12 amount of annual compensation that should be
13 subject to the retention fund exception; and

14 (K) any other recommendations regarding
15 intercollegiate athletics.

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

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

1 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
2 and Transportation of the Senate;

3 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
4 merce of the House of Representatives; and

5 (C) the President.

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

11 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
12 and Transportation of the Senate;

13 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
14 merce of the House of Representatives; and

15 (C) the President.

16 (e) STUDENT ATHLETE RETENTION COUNCIL.—

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

23 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Student Athlete Reten-
24 tion Council shall be composed of 16 members, of
25 whom—

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

4 (B) 8 shall be student athletes elected by
5 all Division I student athletes.

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

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

13 (g) INITIAL MEETING.—The Commission shall hold
14 an initial meeting not later than 30 days after the date
15 on which a sufficient number of members have been ap-
16 pointed under subsection (b) to constitute a quorum pur-
17 suant to subsection (f).

18 (h) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold
19 1 or more public hearings.

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

22 (j) JOINT RESOLUTION.—Any Member of Congress
23 may introduce a joint resolution for consideration to adopt
24 any of the recommendations of the Commission, in whole
25 or in part, including any recommendations from the Com-

1 mission on whether to eliminate, raise, or lower the Pool
2 Benefits Limit.

3 (k) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
4 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits
5 the report required by this section.

6 (l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
7 authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such
8 sums as may be necessary in any fiscal year, half of which
9 shall be derived from the applicable account of the House
10 of Representatives and half of which shall be derived from
11 the contingent fund of the Senate.

12 **SEC. 117. RECRUITMENT AND TAMPERING.**

13 An intercollegiate athletic association may enforce
14 provisions on recruitment and tampering of student ath-
15 letes or prospective student athletes before and during
16 their eligibility for intercollegiate athletic competition
17 that—

18 (1) prohibit an institution, an employee of an
19 institution, a conference, an employee of a con-
20 ference, or an associated entity from contacting a
21 student athlete who is enrolled at or committed to
22 another institution for the purpose of recruiting that
23 student athlete to transfer to or enroll at an institu-
24 tion except for during a reasonable period (or peri-
25 ods) of time established for each intercollegiate sport

1 that in no case shall be less than 2 weeks or greater
2 than 5 weeks starting after the last intercollegiate
3 athletic competition in an academic year in the
4 intercollegiate sport in which the student athlete
5 competes and in which student athletes from the
6 same intercollegiate athletic association competed;

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

21 (3) prohibit an institution, an employee of an
22 institution, a conference, an employee of a con-
23 ference, or an associated entity from contacting a
24 prospective student athlete, who has not enrolled in
25 an institution, for the purpose of recruiting that pro-

1 spective student athlete to attend an institution as
2 a student athlete except for during a reasonable pe-
3 riod (or periods) of time established for each sport
4 that in no case shall be less than 2 weeks or greater
5 than 5 weeks;

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

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

21 (6) prohibit an institution, an employee of an
22 institution, a volunteer of an institution, an associ-
23 ated entity, an athlete agent, a conference, an em-
24 ployee of a conference, or a volunteer of a conference
25 from inducing a student athlete or a prospective stu-

1 dent athlete to enroll at an institution or transfer to
2 an institution by offering compensation to a student
3 athlete in violation of any of paragraphs (1) through
4 (5); or

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

13 **SEC. 118. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.**

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

18 (1) section 114;

19 (2) section 115;

20 (3) section 113;

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

23 (5) section 117;

24 (6) section 112;

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

7 (8) section 103; and

8 (9) section 110.

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

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

18 (2) restrict an institution, employee or volun-
19 teer of an institution, a conference, or an employee
20 of a conference, from participation in intercollegiate
21 athletic competition, including championships or
22 tournaments, for a violation of sections 110, 112,
23 113, 114, 115, or 117;

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

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

4 (B) has transferred to an institution in a
5 manner that does not comply with section 112;
6 or

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

9 (4) decertify an athlete agent for violations of
10 section 103 or the amendments made by section
11 102.

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

20 (d) DESIGNATION OF ENTITY.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic
22 association or conference may designate an entity
23 under its control pursuant to the Injunctive Relief
24 Settlement Agreement approved by the court in “In
25 Re College Athlete NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–

1 03919 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025) for which it shall
2 not be unlawful to enforce or comply with section
3 114.

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

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

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

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

20 (2) Section 104.

21 (3) Section 105.

22 (4) Section 106.

23 (5) Section 107.

24 (6) Section 108.

25 (7) Section 109.

1 (8) Section 111.

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

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

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

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

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

17 (A) alleges an intercollegiate athletic asso-
18 ciation, a conference, or an institution has not
19 complied with the eligibility standard set forth
20 in section 113;

21 (B) is filed against a Division I or Division
22 II institution, as defined by bylaw 20 of the Na-
23 tional Collegiate Athletic Association as of the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, or an inter-

1 collegiate athletic association or a conference
2 comprised of any such institutions; and

3 (C) is filed in an appropriate district court
4 of the United States.

5 (11) Section 114(b).

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

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

12 (1) actual damages; and

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

17 (d) LIMITATION ON PRE-DISPUTE AGREEMENTS AND
18 WAIVERS.—

19 (1) PRE-DISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREEMENT.—

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

1 regarding a provision of this title or an amend-
2 ment made to this title.

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

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

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

20 (1) a claim made by any entity or individual
21 subject to the injunctive relief provisions in “In Re
22 College Athlete NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919
23 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2025), regarding whether a
24 name, image, or likeness agreement is for a valid

1 business purpose shall follow the procedure set forth
2 in article 6, section 2, of such settlement; and

3 (2) in any dispute regarding whether an institu-
4 tion, an employee of an institution, a volunteer of an
5 institution, a conference, an employee of a con-
6 ference, or an associated entity complied with para-
7 graph (1) or (2) of section 114(a), an institution, an
8 employee of an institution, a volunteer of an institu-
9 tion, a conference, an employee of a conference, or
10 an associated entity shall follow the procedure set
11 forth in article 6, section 2 of “In Re College Athlete
12 NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June
13 6, 2025).

14 (f) NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR CIVIL ACTIONS.—

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

21 (2) EFFECT OF CURE.—In the event a cure is
22 possible, if, within the 30-day period under para-
23 graph (1), the defendant cures the violation and pro-
24 vides the plaintiff with an express written statement
25 that the violation has been cured and no such fur-

1 ther violation shall occur, an action shall not be per-
2 mitted.

3 **SEC. 120. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.**

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

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

22 (2) to file, cause to be filed, testify, participate
23 in, or otherwise assist in a proceeding filed or about
24 to be filed relating to an alleged violation of this title

1 or title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
2 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

3 (b) ENFORCEMENT ACTION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (ii) backpay otherwise owed to the in-
25 dividual, with interest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (1) Except to the extent that such law rule, reg-
19 ulation, requirement, or common law right or rem-
20 edy conflicts with subsection (a), the following:

21 (A) Uniform Athlete Agent Acts.

22 (B) Civil rights laws.

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

25 (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 psycho-
14 logical 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
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 (a) Section 113(c)(1)(B) shall apply with respect to
14 any action or proceeding that is pending on or commenced
15 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

19 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—Nothing in this subsection shall
20 be construed to—

21 (A) allow a student athlete eligibility to partici-
22 pate on a Division I or Division II varsity sports
23 team or in intercollegiate athletic competition for a
24 Division I or Division II institution for more than a
25 total of 5 years; or

1 (B) undermine the Benefits Pool Limit set
2 forth in the Injunctive Relief Settlement Agreement
3 approved by the court in “In Re College Athlete
4 NIL Litigation”, No. 20–cv–03919 (N.D. Cal. June
5 6, 2025), or as modified pursuant to the amendment
6 provision specified in paragraph 55 of that settle-
7 ment, unless such outcome is the result of legal pro-
8 ceedings in the In Re College Athlete NIL Litiga-
9 tion, No. 20–cv–03919, or any appeal of legal pro-
10 ceedings in the In Re College Athlete NIL Litiga-
11 tion, No. 20–cv–03919.

12 (c) Except as provided in subsection (a), nothing in
13 this Act shall be construed to extinguish, impair, or other-
14 wise limit a claim for monetary relief arising from conduct
15 that occurred before 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
2 minimum intercollegiate athletic competitions, minimum
3 participants on a varsity sports team, or the number of
4 varsity sports teams, including the number of men's and
5 women's varsity sports teams or Olympic varsity sports
6 teams, that an institution must sponsor for membership
7 within—

8 (1) Division I of the National Collegiate Ath-
9 letic Association, as defined by bylaw 20.9 of the
10 National Collegiate Athletic Association, or a suc-
11 cessor bylaw; or

12 (2) the Football Bowl Subdivision, as defined
13 by bylaw 20.9.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic
14 Association, or successor bylaw.

15 (b) LARGE-SIZED INSTITUTIONS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
17 graph (2), an intercollegiate athletic association or
18 conference comprised of institutions shall provide
19 that each institution shall, consistent with applicable
20 intercollegiate athletic association rules, offer and
21 maintain at least as many total grant-in-aid oppor-
22 tunities and total roster spots for non-revenue gener-
23 ating intercollegiate sports programs, including
24 women's and Olympic intercollegiate sports pro-

1 grams, during each academic year as the member in-
2 stitution provided during academic year 2024–2025.

3 (2) WAIVER.—

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

9 (i) annual athletics revenues have de-
10 clined not less than 15 percent based on
11 the average of the preceding three aca-
12 demic years, and total grant-in-aid ac-
13 counts for not less than 45 percent of the
14 total expenses of the athletic department of
15 the institution;

16 (ii) compliance with paragraph (1)
17 would materially impair the ability of the
18 institution to comply with Federal law; or

19 (iii) there are extraordinary cir-
20 cumstances relating to financial hardship,
21 including from a natural disaster, act of
22 war, or another catastrophe, that are be-
23 yond the control of the institution or mate-
24 rially impair the ability of the institution
25 to comply with paragraph (1).

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

9 (3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10 (A) INSTITUTION.—The term “institution”
11 means an institution, as defined by bylaw 20.9
12 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association,
13 or a successor bylaw, that, upon the date of the
14 enactment of this Act, reports, as required
15 under section 485(g) of the Higher Education
16 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092(g)), having gen-
17 erated not less than \$80,000,000 in total an-
18 nual athletics revenue during the preceding aca-
19 demic year.

20 (B) NON-REVENUE GENERATING INTER-
21 COLLEGIATE SPORTS PROGRAM.—the term
22 “non-revenue generating intercollegiate sports
23 program” means an intercollegiate sports pro-
24 gram at an institution for which, during an aca-
25 demic year, the revenues generated specifically

1 attributable to that sports program are less
2 than the direct and allocated operating expenses
3 of that sports program.

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

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

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
10 graph (2), an intercollegiate athletic association or
11 conference comprised of covered mid-sized institu-
12 tions shall provide that each such institution shall,
13 consistent with applicable intercollegiate athletic as-
14 sociation rules, offer and maintain at least as many
15 total grant-in-aid opportunities and total roster
16 spots for non-revenue generating intercollegiate
17 sports programs, including women’s and Olympic
18 intercollegiate sports programs, during each aca-
19 demic year as the institution provided during aca-
20 demic year 2024–2025.

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

24 (A) the total annual athletics revenue of
25 the institution, as reported under section

1 485(g) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
2 (20 U.S.C. 1092(g)), declined by not less than
3 15 percent from the immediately preceding aca-
4 demic year;

5 (B) the institution petitions the relevant
6 intercollegiate athletic association for, and is
7 granted, an exemption based on a demonstrable
8 financial hardship;

9 (C) compliance with that paragraph would
10 materially impair the ability of the institution
11 to comply with Federal law; or

12 (D) there are extraordinary circumstances
13 relating to financial hardship, including from a
14 natural disaster, act of war, or other cir-
15 cumstance that is beyond the control of the in-
16 stitution or materially impair the ability of the
17 institution to comply with that paragraph.

18 (3) COVERED MID-SIZED INSTITUTION DE-
19 FINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered mid-
20 sized institution” means an institution, as defined by
21 bylaw 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Asso-
22 ciation, or a successor bylaw, that, upon the date of
23 the enactment of this Act, reports, as required under
24 section 485(g) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
25 (20 U.S.C. 1092(g)), having generated not less than

1 \$50,000,000 but less than \$80,000,000 in total an-
2 nual athletics revenue during the preceding academic
3 year.

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

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

13 (1) complies with bylaw 20.9 of the National
14 Collegiate Athletic Association, or a successor bylaw,
15 or bylaw 20.9.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic
16 Association, or a successor bylaw; and

17 (2) as applicable under subsections (b) and (c),
18 offers and maintains at least as many total grant-
19 in-aid opportunities and total roster spots for non-
20 revenue generating intercollegiate sports programs
21 during each academic year as the institution pro-
22 vided during academic year 2024–2025.

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

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

3 (A) an institution and the athletic director
4 of an institution shall retain full authority to
5 include para athletes on their roster spots for
6 intercollegiate sports as walk-on athletes;

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

13 (C) para athletes included as walk-on ath-
14 letes shall not be counted toward any roster cap
15 or scholarship count established for that inter-
16 collegiate sport.

17 (2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

18 (A) PARA ATHLETE.—The term “para ath-
19 lete” means a nationally or internationally clas-
20 sified athlete eligible to compete in the
21 Paralympic Games pursuant to qualifications
22 determined by the United States Olympic and
23 Paralympic Committee under chapter 2205 of
24 title 36, United States Code.

1 (B) WALK-ON ATHLETE.—The term
2 “walk-on athlete” means an enrolled student
3 athlete who participates on a sport roster with-
4 out receiving athletics-based scholarship aid.

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

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—An intercollegiate athletic associa-
9 tion, of which a mid-sized conference is a member, shall
10 ensure any board of directors or other governing board
11 of the intercollegiate athletic association, or any committee
12 of the intercollegiate athletic association with authority to
13 establish and enforce rules or bylaws, is comprised of ade-
14 quate representation by mid-sized conferences.

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

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

20 Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this
21 title shall be construed to override, modify, or amend the
22 applicability of title IX of the Education Amendments of
23 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

1 **SEC. 128. PROTECTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN**
2 **STUDENT ATHLETES.**

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

9 **TITLE II—SPORTS**
10 **BROADCASTING**

11 **SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

12 (a) REFERENCES TO SPORTS BROADCASTING ACT OF
13 1961.—In this Act, the term “Sports Broadcasting Act
14 of 1961” means the Act of September 30, 1961 (15
15 U.S.C. 1291 et seq.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 “(1) COLLECTIVE MEDIA RIGHTS REVENUE.—

4 The term ‘collective media rights revenue’ means
5 revenue derived from the sale or transfer of the
6 media rights of the member institutions and member
7 conferences of the covered entity resulting from the
8 joint agreement described in section 5.

9 “(2) CONFERENCE.—The term ‘conference’
10 means any organization that is not an intercollegiate
11 athletic association and that—

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

14 “(B) arranges championships for inter-
15 collegiate athletic competitions or sets rules for
16 intercollegiate athletic competitions.

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

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

23 “(A) means a scholarship, grant, stipend,
24 or other form of financial assistance, including

1 the provision of tuition, room, board, books, or
2 funds for fees or personal expenses, that—

3 “(i) is paid or provided by an institu-
4 tion to a student for the undergraduate or
5 graduate course of study of the student;
6 and

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

10 “(B) does not include compensation paid
11 to an individual who is a student athlete or a
12 former student athlete.

13 “(5) INSTITUTION.—The term ‘institution’ has
14 the meaning given the term ‘institution of higher
15 education’ in section 101 of the Higher Education
16 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

17 “(6) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-
18 TION.—The term ‘intercollegiate athletic associa-
19 tion’—

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

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

1 “(I) are located in different
2 States; or

3 “(II) participate in intercollegiate
4 athletic competitions in more than 1
5 State;

6 “(ii) sponsors or arranges intercolle-
7 giate athletic competitions between institu-
8 tions;

9 “(iii) sets common rules, standards,
10 procedures, or guidelines for the adminis-
11 tration of intercollegiate athletic competi-
12 tion; and

13 “(iv) is not a conference;

14 “(B) includes—

15 “(i) the National Collegiate Athletic
16 Association; and

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

19 “(C) does not include a corporation, asso-
20 ciation, or other group affiliated with profes-
21 sional athletic competition.

22 “(7) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC COMPETI-
23 TION.—The term ‘intercollegiate athletic competi-
24 tion’ means any varsity intercollegiate sport contest,
25 game, meet, match, tournament, regatta, or other

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

3 “(8) INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.—The term
4 ‘intercollegiate football’ means the intercollegiate
5 sport of football.

6 “(9) INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT.—The term
7 ‘intercollegiate sport’—

8 “(A) means a sport played at the inter-
9 collegiate level, administered by an athletic de-
10 partment, between institutions for which eligi-
11 bility requirements for participation by a stu-
12 dent athlete are established by an intercolle-
13 giate athletic association; and

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

16 “(10) MEMBER CONFERENCE.—The term
17 ‘member conference’, with respect to the covered en-
18 tity, means a conference that is a member of the
19 covered entity.

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

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

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

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

5 “(B) makes satisfactory progress towards
6 completing a degree; and

7 “(C) participates in intercollegiate athletic
8 competitions or competes for a varsity sports
9 team as part of the institution’s educational,
10 developmental, or extracurricular programs.

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

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

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

5 “(A) are both members of the covered enti-
6 ty;

7 “(B) are not members of the same con-
8 ference; and

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

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

15 **SEC. 202. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY FOR TRANSMISSION**
16 **OF COLLEGIATE SPORTS COMPETITIONS.**

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

19 (1) by striking “That the” and inserting the
20 following:

21 **“SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS FROM**
22 **ANTITRUST LAWS.**

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

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

1 “(b) COLLEGE SPORTS.—The antitrust laws, as de-
2 fined in subsection (a), shall not apply to any joint agree-
3 ment, by or among institutions engaging in or conducting
4 organized intercollegiate sports, or conferences that have
5 such institutions as members, to form and operate a cov-
6 ered entity that complies with and enforces the require-
7 ments of section 5 and sells or otherwise transfers to a
8 third party all or any part of the rights of the institutions
9 or conferences in the sponsored telecasting of the inter-
10 collegiate athletic competitions engaged in or conducted by
11 the institutions or conferences.”.

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

14 (1) in section 2 (15 U.S.C. 1292)—

15 (A) by striking “Section 1” and inserting
16 “Section 1(a)”; and

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 203. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTITIES SELLING MEDIA**
2 **RIGHTS.**

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

6 **“SEC. 5. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTITIES SELLING MEDIA**
7 **RIGHTS.**

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

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

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

23 “(2) **INVITATION REQUIREMENT.**—

24 “(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The covered entity
25 shall offer membership on fair and nondiscrim-
26 inatory terms to each conference and each insti-

1 tution that is in Division I, as defined by Bylaw
2 20.9 of the National Collegiate Athletic Associa-
3 tion as of the date of enactment of the Protect
4 College Sports Act of 2026.

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

12 “(c) VOTING RIGHTS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

14 “(A) VOTES OF CONFERENCES AND INSTI-
15 TUTIONS.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the
16 covered entity shall—

17 “(i) in the bylaws of the covered enti-
18 ty—

19 “(I) provide that each member
20 conference or member institution has
21 1 vote on each type of decision or de-
22 termination described in paragraph
23 (2); and

24 “(II) specify the minimum num-
25 ber of votes required for each type of

1 decision or determination described in
2 paragraph (2); and

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

6 “(B) VOTES OF STUDENT ATHLETES.—

7 The covered entity shall—

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

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

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

24 “(2) VOTING THRESHOLDS.—

1 “(A) MAJOR DECISIONS.—A major deci-
2 sion, as defined by the bylaws of the covered
3 entity, shall require a vote totaling not less than
4 $\frac{2}{3}$ of the member conferences or member insti-
5 tutions exercising their voting rights.

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

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

21 “(D) MEDIA RIGHTS REQUIREMENT.—A
22 determination of which media rights shall be
23 contributed to the covered entity pursuant to
24 subsection (f) shall require a unanimous vote of

1 the member conferences or member institutions
2 exercising their voting rights.

3 “(d) REVENUE ALLOCATION FORMULA.—

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

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

12 “(B) in accordance with the requirements
13 of this subsection.

14 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The distribution of col-
15 lective media rights revenue under paragraph (1)
16 shall—

17 “(A) ensure that—

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

24 “(ii) each member institution receives
25 more collective media rights revenue (ex-

1 cluding revenue from the College Football
2 Playoff) during each academic year than
3 the largest amount of collective media
4 rights revenue (excluding revenue from the
5 College Football Playoff) that the institu-
6 tion received in any single academic year
7 during the period of academic year 2021–
8 2022 through academic year 2024–2025;

9 “(B) distribute not less than 15 percent of
10 the collective media rights revenue that remains
11 after compliance with subparagraph (A) equally
12 among all member institutions that received
13 revenue from intercollegiate athletic competi-
14 tions within intercollegiate football in the Foot-
15 ball Bowl Subdivision during academic year
16 2024–2025; and

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

24 “(3) TRANSFER OF REVENUE.—Before distrib-
25 uting collective media rights revenue under para-

1 graph (1), the covered entity shall, in accordance
2 with section 106, transfer an amount of collective
3 media rights revenue to the fund or program estab-
4 lished under that section to ensure that the program
5 or fund is adequately funded.

6 “(e) PROTECTION OF WOMEN’S AND OLYMPIC
7 SPORTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any member institution
9 that receives collective media rights revenue shall,
10 consistent with applicable intercollegiate athletic as-
11 sociation rules, offer and maintain at least as many
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 member
16 institution provided during the 2024–2025 academic
17 year.

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

1 “(f) CONTRIBUTION OF MEDIA RIGHTS.—

2 “(1) CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION.—The cov-
3 ered entity shall require each member institution or
4 member conference, as a condition of receiving a dis-
5 tribution of collective media rights revenue from the
6 covered entity, to contribute to the covered entity,
7 for sale by the covered entity, the media rights of
8 the member institution or member conference, deter-
9 mined by a vote described in subsection (c)(2)(D),
10 with the exception of the rights in the sponsored
11 telecasting of—

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

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

20 “(2) EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY.—The covered en-
21 tity shall have the exclusive authority to negotiate,
22 sell, license, sublicense, and otherwise transfer on a
23 pooled basis media rights contributed under para-
24 graph (1), with the exception of the rights in the
25 sponsored telecasting of—

1 “(A) the basketball tournaments organized
2 by the National Collegiate Athletic Association;
3 and

4 “(B) all postseason intercollegiate athletic
5 competitions for intercollegiate football within
6 the College Football Playoff for the Football
7 Bowl Subdivision occurring before August 1,
8 2032.

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

11 “(A) CONTRIBUTION OF MEDIA RIGHTS.—
12 Notwithstanding paragraph (1), no member in-
13 stitution or member conference shall contribute
14 to the covered entity any media rights, that, at
15 the time of contribution, the member institution
16 or member conference is not legally entitled to
17 contribute by reason of an existing contract, in-
18 cluding an amendment to such contract, that
19 restricts the assignment, transfer, license, or
20 other conveyance of such media rights.

21 “(B) PROTECTION OF CONTRACTUAL
22 RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS, AND REMEDIES.—Noth-
23 ing in this Act shall be construed to eliminate,
24 limit, modify, or otherwise affect any right, obli-

1 gation, or remedy of any party under an exist-
2 ing contract.

3 “(4) BINDING AGREEMENT.—The covered enti-
4 ty shall maintain a written agreement, binding on all
5 member institutions or member conferences, that
6 governs the collection and distribution of collective
7 media rights revenue for the duration of the agree-
8 ment.

9 “(5) PRESERVATION OF CARRIAGE, DISTRIBUTION,
10 AND PROMOTION OF WOMEN’S AND OLYMPIC
11 SPORTS.—In any joint agreement entered into by a
12 covered entity which includes media rights in foot-
13 ball or basketball conveyed pursuant to a vote de-
14 scribed in subsection (c)(2)(D), the covered entity
15 shall take reasonable efforts to promote and dis-
16 tribute the media rights for non-revenue generating
17 intercollegiate sports programs in the regular season
18 and post-season, as well as preserve the current lev-
19 els of carriage, distribution, and promotion.

20 “(g) PRESERVATION OF CONFERENCE OPPONENTS
21 AND TRADITIONAL RIVALRIES.—

22 “(1) CONFERENCE OPPONENTS.—If, as of the
23 date of enactment of the Protect College Sports Act
24 of 2026, more than 6 of the top 10 historic oppo-
25 nents in intercollegiate football of a member institu-

tion were intra-conference opponents of the member institution in intercollegiate football during the most recently completed season, the covered entity shall require the member institution to preserve, to the maximum extent practicable, intercollegiate athletic competitions within intercollegiate football amongst all of its current conference opponents as of that date of enactment.

“(2) TRADITIONAL RIVALRIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If, as of the date of enactment of the Protect College Sports Act of 2026, more than 2 of the top 10 historic opponents in intercollegiate football of a member institution were out-of-conference opponents of the member institution in intercollegiate football during the most recently completed season, the covered entity shall require the member institution to play intercollegiate athletic competitions within intercollegiate football that constitute traditional rivalries, and ensure that—

“(i) the member institution plays not fewer than 2 intercollegiate athletic competitions within intercollegiate football that constitute a traditional rivalry every 4 years; and

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

8 “(B) INSTITUTIONS WITH FEWER THAN 4
9 OUT-OF-CONFERENCE RIVALS.—If a member in-
10 stitution is subject to the requirements under
11 subparagraph (A), and fewer than 4 of the top
12 10 historic opponents of the member institution
13 in intercollegiate football are member institu-
14 tions that belong to a different conference, the
15 member institution shall seek to comply with
16 clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) to the
17 extent practicable.

18 “(C) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this
19 paragraph shall be construed to affect the abil-
20 ity of a member institution to engage in inter-
21 collegiate athletic competitions within intercolle-
22 giate football against any other member institu-
23 tion within the same conference that was 1 of
24 the top 10 historic opponents in intercollegiate
25 football of the member institution as of the date

1 of enactment of the Protect College Sports Act
2 of 2026.

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

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

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

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

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

24 “(1) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Subject to
25 paragraph (2), a person aggrieved by a violation of

1 section 1(b), this section, section 6, or section 7, in-
2 cluding a party to a joint agreement to form the cov-
3 ered entity, may bring a civil action against the cov-
4 ered entity in an appropriate district court of the
5 United States.

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

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

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

18 “(i) PARTICIPATION IN COVERED ENTITY OP-
19 TIONAL.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act shall,
21 under Federal or State law, establish or be con-
22 strued to require, mandate, or encourage any insti-
23 tution or conference to join, participate in, or trans-
24 fer any media rights to the covered entity or to cre-

1 ate or give rise to any duty, obligation, or standard
2 of care to take such action.

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

12 “(3) NO ABROGATION OF EXISTING CON-
13 TRACTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed
14 to abrogate, terminate, or modify a contract or other
15 legally enforceable agreement in effect on the date of
16 enactment of the Protect College Sports Act of
17 2026, or to provide a defense to or immunity from
18 a claim arising from breach or nonperformance of
19 such contract or legally enforceable agreement.

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

1 **SEC. 204. MARKET LEVEL BROADCAST ACCESS FOR COL-**
2 **LEGE FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL.**

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

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

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

13 “(2) LOCAL DESIGNATED MARKET AREA.—

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

16 “(i) consists of a designated market
17 area that includes the principal campus of
18 an institution that is a member of the cov-
19 ered entity; and

20 “(ii) at the election of the member in-
21 stitution and the applicable network, dis-
22 tributor, or licensee holding market-level
23 rights, may include not more than 1 addi-
24 tional geographically adjacent designated
25 market area, or designated market area
26 within the State in which the principal

1 campus of the member institution is lo-
2 cated, in which a substantial portion of the
3 student body, alumni, or in-State resident
4 population of the member institution re-
5 sides.

6 “(B) PUBLICATION OF LIST.—The Federal
7 Communications Commission shall—

8 “(i) not later than 180 days after the
9 date of enactment of the Protect College
10 Sports Act of 2026, publish a list of des-
11 ignated market areas described in subpara-
12 graph (A); and

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

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

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

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of the ex-
23 emption under section 1(b)(1), the covered entity
24 shall make commercially available by purchase or li-
25 cense, on a non-exclusive basis, for each intercolle-

1 giate athletic competition in football or basketball,
2 not less than 1 Local Outlet option in the local des-
3 ignated market area of each member institution par-
4 ticipating in the competition.

5 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
6 paragraph (1) shall be construed to require carriage
7 of an intercollegiate athletic competition by more
8 than 1 Local Outlet in a given designated market
9 area.

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

14 “(4) REQUIREMENT FULFILLMENT.—A na-
15 tional rights holder may satisfy the requirement
16 under paragraph (1) by making intercollegiate ath-
17 letic competitions available to viewers in the applica-
18 ble local designated market areas using an offering
19 that the rights holder owns or is affiliated with that
20 is freely available to viewers.

21 “(c) GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATION.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each covered entity, and
23 any network, distributor, or licensee holding market-
24 level rights or seeking Local Outlet option rights to
25 intercollegiate athletic competitions described in sub-

1 section (b), shall negotiate in good faith to fulfill the
2 requirement of that subsection.

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

6 **SEC. 205. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN CONFERENCE MERG-**
7 **ERS OR ACQUISITION.**

8 The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is amended by
9 inserting after section 6 (as added by section 204 of this
10 Act) the following:

11 **“SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN CONFERENCE MERG-**
12 **ERS AND ACQUISITIONS.**

13 “(a) VIOLATION OF ANTITRUST LAWS.—It shall be
14 unlawful under the antitrust laws, as defined in section
15 1(a), for—

16 “(1) any covered conference that reported more
17 than \$700,000,000 in revenue on its fiscal year
18 2025 tax return or any subsequent tax return to—

19 “(A) merge or consolidate with, or acquire
20 the assets or media rights of, another covered
21 conference or a covered institution, if as a re-
22 sult of the transaction, the number of institu-
23 tions that are members of the covered con-
24 ference would be less than 75 percent of the in-
25 stitutions participating in the Football Bowl

1 Subdivision, as defined by Bylaw 20.9.9 of the
2 National Collegiate Athletic Association; or

3 “(B) acquire the assets or media rights of
4 an institution that is not a covered institution,
5 unless, as a result of the transaction, the num-
6 ber of institutions that are members of the cov-
7 ered conference does not exceed 19 institutions;
8 or

9 “(2) any entity to merge with, acquire, or con-
10 solidate the assets or media rights of a covered insti-
11 tution, or multiple covered institutions, for the pur-
12 pose of creating a new conference or intercollegiate
13 athletic association.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) COVERED CONFERENCE.—The term ‘cov-
9 ered conference’ means a conference, the primary
10 athletic revenue of which is derived from the sale or
11 transfer of media rights relating to intercollegiate
12 football.

13 “(2) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term ‘cov-
14 ered institution’ means an institution that has, at
15 least once in the preceding 5 years, competed in
16 intercollegiate football as a member of a covered
17 conference that reported more than \$700,000,000 in
18 revenue on its fiscal year 2025 tax return or any
19 subsequent tax return.”.

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

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Sports Broad-
24 casting Act of 1961 (15 U.S.C. 1293) is amended—

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

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

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

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

10 (b) PROTECTION OF ARMY-NAVY GAME.—Section 3
11 of the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 (15 U.S.C. 1293)
12 is amended—

13 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “The first sen-
14 tence”; and

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

16 “(b)(1) Section 1(b) shall not apply to any joint
17 agreement described in that section that permits any per-
18 son to sponsor, telecast, or authorize the telecast of any
19 postseason intercollegiate football contest involving an in-
20 stitution participating in the Football Bowl Subdivision
21 during the protected Army-Navy Game broadcast window.

22 “(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘pro-
23 tected Army-Navy Game broadcast window’ means the pe-
24 riod beginning 1 hour before scheduled kickoff and ending
25 30 minutes after the official conclusion of the telecast of

1 the annual football game between the United States Mili-
2 tary Academy and the United States Naval Academy oc-
3 ccurring on the second Saturday in December in any
4 year.”.

5 **SEC. 207. MEDIA RIGHTS UTILIZATION REQUIREMENT FOR**
6 **COLLEGE SPORTS OTHER THAN FOOTBALL**
7 **AND BASKETBALL.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “cov-
9 ered entity”, “intercollegiate athletic competition”, “mem-
10 ber conference”, and “member institution” have the mean-
11 ings given those terms in section 8 of the Sports Broad-
12 casting Act of 1961, as redesignated by section 201(b)(1)
13 of this Act.

14 (b) REQUIREMENT OF USE.—A distributor to which
15 any media rights for intercollegiate athletic competitions
16 in a sport other than football or basketball are sold, li-
17 censed, or otherwise conveyed by the covered entity or its
18 member institutions or member conferences after the date
19 of enactment of this Act shall affirmatively use those
20 rights by making the competitions reasonably available to
21 the public not later than 1 year after the effective date
22 of the agreement under which the rights are sold, licensed,
23 or otherwise conveyed.

24 (c) REVERSION OF RIGHTS.—

1 (1) FAILURE TO USE RIGHTS; OPPORTUNITY TO
2 CURE.—If a distributor to which media rights for
3 intercollegiate athletic competitions in a sport other
4 than football or basketball are sold, licensed, or oth-
5 erwise conveyed as described in subsection (b) does
6 not use the rights during the 1-year period begin-
7 ning on the effective date of the agreement under
8 which the rights are sold, licensed, or otherwise con-
9 veyed, the covered entity, member institution, or
10 member conference notifies the distributor after the
11 expiration of that 1-year period of the distributor's
12 failure to use the rights, and the distributor does not
13 use the rights during the 180-day period beginning
14 on the date of the notification, the rights for that
15 sport shall revert to the originating covered entity,
16 member institution, or member conference.

17 (2) RECONVEYANCE.—Upon the reversion of
18 rights under paragraph (1), the covered entity,
19 member institution, or member conference may re-
20 sell, relicense, or otherwise reconvey the rights to an-
21 other entity without penalty or liability for breach of
22 the original agreement described in that paragraph.

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

1 **TITLE III—HBCU SPORTS MEDIA**
2 **AND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM**

3 **SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This title may be cited as the “HBCU Sports Media
5 and Connectivity Program”.

6 **SEC. 302. GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF BROADBAND,**
7 **TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA, AND SPORTS BROAD-**
8 **CAST INFRASTRUCTURE OF HBCUS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—

10 (1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Assistant Sec-
11 retary, in consultation with the Secretary, shall
12 award grants to eligible entities, on a competitive
13 basis, to support long-term improvements to
14 broadband, information technology, media infra-
15 structure, including infrastructure for the produc-
16 tion, transmission, and distribution of live coverage
17 of intercollegiate athletic events, and local jour-
18 nalism for student learning.

19 (2) GRANT PERIOD.—With respect to each eligi-
20 ble entity that is awarded a grant under this section,
21 such grant shall be for a period determined appro-
22 priate by the Assistant Secretary based on the infor-
23 mation submitted by such entity under subsection
24 (b) that is not less than 2 years and not more than
25 5 years.

1 (3) MULTIPLE GRANTS PERMITTED.—An eligi-
2 ble entity may apply for, and be awarded, more than
3 1 grant under this section.

4 (b) APPLICATION.—To be considered for a grant
5 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
6 cation to the Assistant Secretary that includes—

7 (1) to the extent possible, the information nec-
8 essary for the Assistant Secretary, in consultation
9 with the Secretary, to make the determinations
10 under subsection (c);

11 (2) a description of the projects that such eligi-
12 ble entity plans to carry out with the grant and how
13 such projects will advance the long-term goals of the
14 entity;

15 (3) an assessment of the broadband service
16 available on the campus of the eligible entity, and to
17 the students of the eligible entity, as of the date of
18 the application;

19 (4) an explanation of—

20 (A) how such investments in broadband,
21 information technology, and media production,
22 including sports media and live coverage of
23 intercollegiate athletic events, and local jour-
24 nalism at such eligible entity will promote and
25 advance educational opportunities; and

1 (B) the anticipated number of years that
2 any facilities constructed, improved, or replaced
3 under such projects may be used to facilitate
4 the opportunities and investments described in
5 subparagraph (A);

6 (5) the median age of the facilities that such
7 entity plans to improve or replace under such
8 projects, if existing and applicable;

9 (6) if the eligible entity proposes a project de-
10 scribed in paragraph (2) or (4) of section 303(a), a
11 description of how the project will expand the capac-
12 ity of the eligible entity to produce, transmit, or dis-
13 tribute live coverage of intercollegiate athletic events,
14 including events in women's sports and Olympic
15 sports, and, as applicable, to make such live cov-
16 erage available in the local market of the entity as
17 well as for digital distribution; and

18 (7) if relevant to the application—

19 (A) baseline measurements as of the date
20 of the application, in the form prescribed by the
21 Assistant Secretary, of—

22 (i) available network capacity and av-
23 erage and peak utilization over the pre-
24 ceding 12 months; and

1 (ii) the number and percentage of en-
2 rolled students who lack access to
3 broadband, and the methodology used to
4 determine that figure; and

5 (B) for each baseline measurement sub-
6 mitted under subparagraph (A), a specific, nu-
7 merical target the entity commits to achieve by
8 the end of the grant period, and the date by
9 which each target will be met.

10 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
11 tion, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
12 retary—

13 (1) shall give priority to an eligible entity
14 that—

15 (A) demonstrates the greatest need to im-
16 prove campus broadband and information tech-
17 nology infrastructure, as determined by a com-
18 parison of factors identified by the Assistant
19 Secretary, which may include—

20 (i) the availability, capacity, and con-
21 dition of broadband service and network
22 infrastructure on the campus of the eligible
23 entity;

24 (ii) the median age of the network
25 and information technology infrastructure

1 that the entity will use grant funds to im-
2 prove;

3 (iii) the extent to which student en-
4 rollment and instructional demands exceed
5 existing network capacity; and

6 (iv) the total amount of deferred
7 maintenance of the network and informa-
8 tion technology infrastructure of the entity;

9 (B) demonstrates the most limited capacity
10 to raise funds for the long-term improvement of
11 campus broadband and information technology
12 infrastructure, as determined by an assessment
13 of—

14 (i) the current and historic ability of
15 the eligible entity to raise funds for con-
16 struction, renovation, modernization, and
17 major repair projects for campus;

18 (ii) whether the eligible entity has
19 been able to issue bonds or receive other
20 funds to support school construction
21 projects;

22 (iii) the bond rating of the eligible en-
23 tity;

1 (iv) the number of students enrolled
2 as of the date on which the application is
3 submitted;

4 (v) the total value of the endowment
5 of the eligible entity as of the date on
6 which the application is submitted;

7 (vi) the total amount of deferred
8 maintenance of such infrastructure; and

9 (vii) the amount and sources of insti-
10 tutional revenue;

11 (C) enrolls the highest percentages of stu-
12 dents who are eligible to receive a Federal Pell
13 Grant under subpart 1 of part A of title IV of
14 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
15 1070a et seq.), and whose families qualify for
16 other Federal need-based aid;

17 (D) is a public institution that—

18 (i) faces declining State support or in-
19 vestment; and

20 (ii) demonstrates limited ability to
21 generate revenue, as determined by assess-
22 ing—

23 (I) the total value of the endow-
24 ment of the institution as of the date

1 on which the application is submitted;
2 and

3 (II) the costs of the deferred
4 maintenance of the institution relative
5 to the total revenue of the institution;

6 (E) demonstrates an effort to seek support
7 from public and private entities for projects
8 carried out with a grant awarded under this
9 title; and

10 (F) proposes a project with the lowest total
11 cost per student projected to be served, taking
12 into account short-term and long-term costs of
13 the project, cost differentials between geo-
14 graphical regions, and other key cost drivers
15 over the lifetime of the project, and dem-
16 onstrates how those factors contribute to overall
17 cost efficiency; and

18 (2) may give priority to an eligible entity—

19 (A) that did not receive a grant under this
20 title in the preceding fiscal year;

21 (B) that proposes projects aligned with
22 long-term infrastructure priorities that—

23 (i) serve as regional models, as deter-
24 mined by the Secretary;

1 (ii) address multiple needs on the
2 campus of the entity; or

3 (iii) address the needs of at least 1 el-
4 igible entity in addition to the entity re-
5 ceiving the grant;

6 (C) that is a member of an HBCU athletic
7 conference;

8 (D) that commits to using the facilities
9 and equipment funded under the grant to
10 produce or distribute live coverage of intercolle-
11 giate athletic events in women's sports and
12 Olympic sports; or

13 (E) that has entered into, or demonstrates
14 plans to enter into, a partnership, licensing ar-
15 rangement, or distribution agreement with a
16 covered entity, a conference, an intercollegiate
17 athletic association, or a video programming
18 distributor with respect to media rights to
19 intercollegiate athletic events of the eligible en-
20 tity.

21 (d) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In evaluating ap-
22 plications receiving equivalent scores under the criteria
23 published under subsection (f)(2), the Assistant Secretary
24 may consider the geographic distribution of eligible enti-
25 ties in the United States.

1 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Assistant Sec-
2 retary, in consultation with the Secretary, shall provide
3 technical assistance to eligible entities to prepare the enti-
4 ties to qualify for, apply for, and maintain a grant under
5 this title.

6 (f) PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY.—

7 (1) PUBLIC INPUT.—Not later than 120 days
8 after the date on which amounts are first appro-
9 priated to carry out this title, the Assistant Sec-
10 retary shall publish in the Federal Register a re-
11 quest for public comment on the design and admin-
12 istration of the grant program under this title, with
13 a comment period of not less than 45 days.

14 (2) PROGRAM GUIDANCE.—Not later than 120
15 days after the close of the comment period under
16 paragraph (1), and before accepting any application,
17 the Assistant Secretary shall publish—

18 (A) guidance for the grant program under
19 this title, including all application requirements;

20 (B) the criteria the Assistant Secretary
21 will use to evaluate applications, including the
22 numerical weight assigned to each criterion;
23 and

24 (C) the process and timeline for awarding
25 grants.

1 (3) NO POST HOC CHANGES.—The Assistant
2 Secretary shall endeavor to evaluate an application
3 on the basis of the criteria and weights published
4 under paragraph (2) that were in effect on the date
5 on which the application window opened.

6 (4) PUBLICATION OF SCORES.—Not later than
7 30 days after awarding grants for a fiscal year, the
8 Assistant Secretary shall make available to the ap-
9 propriate congressional committees, for each grant
10 awarded, the name of the recipient, the amount of
11 the grant, and the score assigned to the recipient's
12 application under each criterion published under
13 paragraph (2).

14 **SEC. 303. GRANT USES.**

15 (a) PERMITTED USES.—Except as provided in sub-
16 section (c), an eligible entity that receives a grant under
17 this title shall use the grant funds to carry out at least
18 one of the following activities:

19 (1)(A) Install, upgrade, or extend the life of—
20 (i) high-speed broadband internet infra-
21 structure sufficient to support digital and tech-
22 nology-based learning, except that no funds
23 may be used for broadband infrastructure de-
24 ployment to any location that is already served
25 by qualifying broadband service or is subject to

1 enforceable deployment obligations, as deter-
2 mined by the Assistant Secretary;

3 (ii) campus-wide broadband networks, in-
4 cluding adjacent infrastructure and 5G and fu-
5 ture network generations; and

6 (iii) other broadband infrastructure that
7 provides support for teaching, learning and re-
8 search.

9 (B) Modernize, renovate, or retrofit campus fa-
10 cilities, including preserving facilities with historic
11 significance, to facilitate projects under this para-
12 graph.

13 (2)(A) Construct, install, maintain, or facili-
14 tate—

15 (i) equipment or infrastructure used for
16 training and education in digital media produc-
17 tion and distribution facilities, including tools
18 and equipment that support instruction in tele-
19 vision or radio broadcasting on stations located
20 on the campus of or affiliated with the eligible
21 entity; and

22 (ii) facilities, equipment, or services for the
23 studio of digital media production or production
24 for television or radio broadcast stations located

1 on the campus of or affiliated with the eligible
2 entity.

3 (B) Support technology, broadcast engineering,
4 and journalism instruction through existing courses
5 and supervised training programs that are—

6 (i) operated by or affiliated with the eligi-
7 ble entity; and

8 (ii) used primarily for instructional and ex-
9 periential learning purposes.

10 (3) Establish new, or improve existing, labora-
11 tories or research facilities relating to the fields of
12 communications technology, broadcast engineering,
13 media, journalism, and other disciplines, as deter-
14 mined by the Assistant Secretary in consultation
15 with the Secretary.

16 (4) Construct, install, upgrade, or operate—

17 (A) media production facilities, including
18 production control rooms, master control facili-
19 ties, and mobile or remote production units, for
20 the coverage of intercollegiate athletic events;

21 (B) cameras, replay, graphics, audio, and
22 other production equipment, and transmission
23 infrastructure, including fiber, satellite, and
24 internet protocol transmission, sufficient to
25 produce live coverage of intercollegiate athletic

1 events at the technical standards of national
2 and regional video programming distributors;

3 (C) streaming and digital distribution in-
4 frastructure enabling the eligible entity to dis-
5 tribute live coverage of intercollegiate athletic
6 events directly to the public, including in the
7 local market of the eligible entity; and

8 (D) programs that train students of the el-
9 igible entity in sports programming, including
10 coverage, production, distribution, and all other
11 aspects of media operations, integrated where
12 practicable with the journalism and media pro-
13 grams of the entity.

14 (b) ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.—An eligible entity
15 that receives a grant under this title may use the grant
16 funds to—

17 (1) purchase or lease eligible equipment, exclud-
18 ing personal devices, for shared instructional and re-
19 search use by students, faculty, and other designated
20 instructional and research personnel of the eligible
21 entity, provided that equipment is relevant to uses
22 described in subsection (a);

23 (2) establish, expand, or operate information
24 technology and network operations capacity, includ-

1 ing hiring and training information technology per-
2 sonnel to support student learning;

3 (3) strengthen the cybersecurity posture of the
4 networks and information systems of the eligible en-
5 tity, including through network monitoring, endpoint
6 protection, and cybersecurity workforce training to
7 support student learning;

8 (4) provide digital skills and relevant occupa-
9 tional training to students;

10 (5) subscribe to broadband internet access serv-
11 ice, for each eligible student through a single
12 broadband connection that provides sufficient speed,
13 reliability, and data capacity to support online learn-
14 ing for enrolled students of the eligible entity who
15 individually demonstrate financial need through in-
16 formation submitted through the Free Application
17 for Federal Student Aid (commonly known as the
18 “FAFSA”) and lack access to broadband for learn-
19 ing; or

20 (6) acquire and install research-related equip-
21 ment and technology in the campus facilities of the
22 eligible entity related to telecommunications, jour-
23 nalism, media, and cybersecurity.

1 (c) PROHIBITED USES.—An eligible entity that re-
2 ceives a grant under this title may not use the grant funds
3 for—

4 (1) payment of routine and predictable mainte-
5 nance costs or minor repairs;

6 (2) the purchase or support of any communica-
7 tions equipment or service (as defined in section 9
8 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Net-
9 works Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1608)) that poses a
10 risk to national security;

11 (3) activities that are funded, in whole or in
12 part, under part B of title III of the Higher Edu-
13 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1060 et seq.), unless
14 the Secretary approves such use;

15 (4) last-mile deployment of broadband service
16 to a campus of an eligible entity—

17 (A) that already has access to broadband
18 service at a download speed of not less than 1
19 gigabit per second at the eligible entity's pri-
20 mary network aggregation point; or

21 (B) where there is a legally enforceable ob-
22 ligation to deploy broadband service at the
23 speed described in subparagraph (A); or

24 (5) technology whose primary purpose is fund-
25 raising or the conduct of ceremonial events.

1 (d) ENCOURAGING PARTNERSHIPS.—The Assistant
2 Secretary and the Secretary shall encourage partnerships
3 between eligible entities and public and private entities
4 to—

5 (1) provide funding in addition to the grants
6 provided under this title; and

7 (2) assist in carrying out the activities funded
8 by grants awarded under this title.

9 **SEC. 304. COORDINATION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this title, the As-
11 sistant Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary, shall
12 coordinate with the following entities to ensure efficient
13 administration, avoid duplication of funding and efforts,
14 and maximize student achievement:

15 (1) The Federal Communications Commission,
16 including with respect to—

17 (A) the E-Rate program set forth in sub-
18 part F of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal
19 Regulations;

20 (B) broadband availability data collected
21 under title VIII of the Communications Act of
22 1934 (47 U.S.C. 641 et seq.);

23 (C) the broadcast licensing of noncommer-
24 cial educational broadcast stations operated by
25 eligible entities; and

1 (D) the local broadcast availability of
2 intercollegiate athletic events.

3 (2) State broadband offices, with respect to
4 funds made available under the Broadband Equity,
5 Access, and Deployment Program established under
6 section 60102 of the Infrastructure Investment and
7 Jobs Act (47 U.S.C. 1702).

8 (3) Other Federal agencies, including the De-
9 partment of Agriculture, that fund Federal
10 broadband deployment programs.

11 (4) Intercollegiate athletic associations and any
12 covered entity, with respect to production standards,
13 media rights, and distribution arrangements relevant
14 to projects funded under this title.

15 (5) The Director of the Office of Minority
16 Broadband Initiatives.

17 (b) STREAMLINED APPLICATIONS.—The Assistant
18 Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, align the appli-
19 cation requirements under this title with the requirements
20 of other Federal broadband programs in order to reduce
21 administrative burdens on eligible entities.

22 (c) NONDUPLICATION.—In carrying out coordination
23 activities under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary
24 shall ensure that any grant or other funds provided under
25 this title avoid duplication with a project that has received

1 Federal funds from a Federal entity described in that sub-
2 section.

3 **SEC. 305. REPORTS AND EVALUATION.**

4 (a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
6 the first award of a grant under this title, and annu-
7 ally thereafter, the Assistant Secretary, in consulta-
8 tion with the Secretary, shall submit to the appro-
9 priate congressional committees a report on the
10 projects carried out with grant funds awarded under
11 this title.

12 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
13 paragraph (1) shall include—

14 (A) with respect to projects carried out by
15 eligible entities with grant funds awarded under
16 this title, an assessment of—

17 (i) the types of such projects;
18 (ii) the total cost of each such project;
19 (iii) the geographic distribution of
20 such projects; and

21 (iv) the demographic and socio-
22 economic composition of the student popu-
23 lation served by such projects;

24 (B) an evaluation of a sample of grant re-
25 cipients, selected by the Assistant Secretary

1 taking into account size and geographic location
2 of each grantee, to determine how such recipi-
3 ents are using the grant and the effectiveness
4 of the activities carried out with the grant in
5 improving student achievement;

6 (C) with respect to projects described in
7 paragraphs (2) and (4) of section 303(a), the
8 number of intercollegiate athletic events and
9 other campus media productions produced,
10 transmitted, or distributed using facilities or
11 equipment funded under this title,
12 disaggregated by sport and including events in
13 women's sports and Olympic sports; and

14 (D) the number of students receiving
15 training in journalism, broadcasting, or media
16 production supported under this title.

17 (b) GRANTEE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not
18 later than 90 days after the end of the grant period for
19 a grant awarded under this title, the grantee shall submit
20 to the Assistant Secretary a final report that—

21 (1) describes the use of grant funds, the status
22 of each funded asset, and the grantee's performance
23 against each target submitted under section
24 302(b)(7)(B); and

1 (2) meets any additional requirements estab-
2 lished by the Assistant Secretary in accordance with
3 part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations.

4 (c) MEASURES OF USAGE AND ENGAGEMENT.—De-
5 vice utilization, log-in counts, bandwidth consumed, plat-
6 form hours, or any other measure of usage or engagement
7 may not be—

8 (1) used to fully satisfy any performance metric
9 under this title; or

10 (2) reported as evidence of the effectiveness of
11 a program carried out using grant funds awarded
12 under this title.

13 **SEC. 306. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this title:

15 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
16 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
17 mittees” means—

18 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
19 and Transportation of the Senate;

20 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,
21 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

22 (C) the Committee on Education and
23 Workforce of the House of Representatives; and

24 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
25 merce of the House of Representatives.

1 (2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
2 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
3 Commerce for Telecommunications and Information.

4 (3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
5 tity” has the meaning given the term in the Act of
6 September 30, 1961 (commonly known as the
7 “Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961”) (15 U.S.C.
8 1291 et seq.), as amended by title II of this Act.

9 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
10 ty” means—

11 (A) a part B institution; or

12 (B) an institution or program listed under
13 section 326(e)(1) of the Higher Education Act
14 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1063b(e)(1)).

15 (5) HBCU ATHLETIC CONFERENCE.—The term
16 “HBCU athletic conference” means a conference the
17 membership of which consists predominantly of part
18 B institutions.

19 (6) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION;
20 CONFERENCE.—The terms “intercollegiate athletic
21 association” and “conference” have the meanings
22 given those terms in section 100 of this Act.

23 (7) PART B INSTITUTION.—The term “Part B
24 institution” has the meaning given the term in sec-

1 tion 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
2 U.S.C. 1061).

3 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Education.

5 (9) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
6 ing given the term in section 103 of the Higher
7 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

8 **SEC. 307. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
10 this title \$180,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
11 through 2032.