

Union Calendar No. 474

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8534

[Report No. 118-573]

To prohibit a student athlete from being considered an employee of an institution, a conference, or an association based on participation in certain intercollegiate athletics.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2024

Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Ms. FOXX, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. OGLES, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. ADERHOLT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

JULY 5, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 23, 2024]

A BILL

To prohibit a student athlete from being considered an employee of an institution, a conference, or an association based on participation in certain intercollegiate athletics.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Student Ath-*
5 *letes’ Economic Freedom Act of 2024”.*

6 **SEC. 2. EMPLOYMENT STANDINGS.**

7 *Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or*
8 *State law, a student athlete (or former student athlete) may*
9 *not be considered an employee of an institution, a con-*
10 *ference, or an association under any Federal or State law*
11 *or regulation based on participation of the student athlete*
12 *(or former student athlete) in a varsity intercollegiate ath-*
13 *letics program or a varsity intercollegiate athletics competi-*
14 *tion, or the existence of rules or requirements for being a*
15 *member of any varsity sports team.*

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17 *In this Act:*

18 (1) *ASSOCIATION.*—*The term “association”*
19 *means an organization that—*

20 (A) *has multiple conferences and institu-*
21 *tions as members;*

22 (B) *arranges championships for varsity*
23 *intercollegiate athletics programs;*

24 (C) *sets rules for varsity intercollegiate ath-*
25 *letics programs;*

1 (D) sets rules for varsity intercollegiate ath-
2 letics competitions; and

3 (E) is not a conference.

4 (2) CONFERENCE.—The term “conference” means
5 an organization that—

6 (A) has multiple institutions as members;

7 (B) sets rules for varsity intercollegiate ath-
8 letics competitions;

9 (C) arranges championships for varsity
10 intercollegiate athletics programs; and

11 (D) is not an association.

12 (3) INSTITUTION.—The term “institution” means
13 an institution of higher education (as defined in sec-
14 tion 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
15 U.S.C. 1001)) that sponsors a varsity intercollegiate
16 athletics program in the United States.

17 (4) STUDENT ATHLETE.—The term “student ath-
18 lete” means an individual who participates in a var-
19 sity intercollegiate athletics program.

20 (5) VARSITY INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS COM-
21 PETITION.—The term “varsity intercollegiate athletics
22 competition” means a competition involving 2 or
23 more varsity intercollegiate athletics programs spon-
24 sored by different institutions.

1 (6) *VARSITY INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS PRO-*
2 *GRAM.*—*The term “varsity intercollegiate athletics*
3 *program” means a team or other program unit of an*
4 *institution participating in a sport—*

5 *(A) played at the intercollegiate level;*

6 *(B) administered by an athletic depart-*
7 *ment; and*

8 *(C) for which eligibility requirements for*
9 *participation by student athletes are established*
10 *by an association.*

11 (7) *VARSITY SPORTS TEAM.*—*The term “varsity*
12 *sports team”—*

13 *(A) means a team of student athletes orga-*
14 *nized by a varsity intercollegiate athletics pro-*
15 *gram to participate in a varsity intercollegiate*
16 *athletics competition; and*

17 *(B) does not include a team that is tradi-*
18 *tionally characterized as an intramural or club*
19 *team.*

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