

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 599

To prohibit the receipt of Federal funds by any institution of higher education with a football team that participates in the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision, unless the national championship game of such Subdivision is the culmination of a playoff system.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2009

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To prohibit the receipt of Federal funds by any institution of higher education with a football team that participates in the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision, unless the national championship game of such Subdivision is the culmination of a playoff system.

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 “Championship Fair-
5 ness Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION.**

2 (a) PROHIBITION.—An institution of higher edu-
3 cation shall not be eligible to receive any Federal funds
4 for any fiscal year during which the institution has a foot-
5 ball team that participates in the National Collegiate Ath-
6 letic Association (NCAA) Division I Football Bowl Sub-
7 division, unless the national championship game of such
8 Subdivision is the culmination of a playoff system.

9 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

10 (1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
11 term “institution of higher education” has the
12 meaning given such term in section 102 of the High-
13 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

14 (2) PLAYOFF SYSTEM.—The term “playoff sys-
15 tem” means a system by which the national cham-
16 pionship game of the NCAA Division I Football
17 Bowl Subdivision is the final game of a single elimi-
18 nation post-season playoff system for which all
19 NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision con-
20 ferences and unaffiliated NCAA Division I Football
21 Bowl Subdivision teams are eligible.

22 **SEC. 3. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

23 (a) OTHER SPORTS NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in
24 this Act shall be construed to affect the post-season play-
25 off system of any sport, division, subdivision, or athletic

1 program other than the NCAA Division I Football Bowl
2 Subdivision.

3 (b) BOWL GAMES PERMITTED.—Nothing in this Act
4 shall be construed to prevent—

5 (1) a playoff system that incorporates the post-
6 season NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision
7 bowl games established before the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, including names, sponsorships, and
9 locations for such bowl games; or

10 (2) bowl games carried out independent of the
11 playoff system required by this Act, including bowl
12 games established before, on, and after the date of
13 the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

15 The prohibition in section 2(a) shall apply to any in-
16 stitution of higher education with a football team partici-
17 pating in an NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision
18 game on or after the date that is 3 years after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act.

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