

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8304

To provide for a limitation on liability for certain institutions regarding
limitations on compensation to student athletes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2024

Mr. FRY (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. NORMAN,
Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. GUEST, Mr. NEHLS,
and Mr. JORDAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide for a limitation on liability for certain institutions
regarding limitations on compensation to student athletes.

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 “Protect the Benefits
5 for Athletes and Limit Liability Act of 2024” or as the
6 “Protect the BALL Act of 2024”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

1 (1) The term “academic stipend” means a pay-
2 ment made to a student athlete by (and only by) an
3 institution not exceeding \$5,980 in or attributable to
4 any academic year.

5 (2) The term “intercollegiate athletic associa-
6 tion” shall mean any organization or association
7 with multiple conferences or institutions as members
8 that arranges championships and sets rules for na-
9 tional sports competition between Varsity Intercolle-
10 giate Teams.

11 (3) The term “compensation” shall include all
12 forms of payment and remuneration, in cash, bene-
13 fits, awards and in any other form, including pay-
14 ments for licenses of or use of name, image, and
15 likeness rights or for such other State or Federal in-
16 tellectual or intangible property rights as are cur-
17 rently or may hereafter be recognized judicially or
18 enacted by statute, but does not include the paying
19 or providing the following to any student athlete:

20 (A) Tuition, room, board, books, fees, and
21 personal expenses paid or provided by an insti-
22 tution up to the full cost of attending such in-
23 stitution, as defined in section 437 of the High-
24 er Education Act of 1965, and calculated by
25 such institution’s financial aid office applying

1 the same standards, policies, and procedures for
2 all students, including such amounts paid or
3 provided by such institution for both under-
4 graduate and graduate studies at such institu-
5 tion.

6 (B) Pell Grants and other governmental
7 grants unrelated to participation in varsity
8 intercollegiate sports competition.

9 (C) Health insurance and the costs of
10 healthcare, including health insurance and
11 healthcare costs wholly or partly self-funded by
12 an Association, Conference, or institution.

13 (D) Disability and loss of value insurance,
14 including disability and loss of value insurance
15 that is wholly or partly self-funded by an Asso-
16 ciation, Conference, or institution.

17 (E) Career counseling and job placement
18 services and guidance available to all students
19 at an institution.

20 (F) Payment of hourly wages and benefits
21 for work actually performed (and not for par-
22 ticipation in intercollegiate athletics) at a rate
23 commensurate with the going rate in the local-
24 ity of an institution for similar work.

1 (G) Programs to connect student athletes
2 with employers and to facilitate employment op-
3 portunities, provided the financial terms of such
4 employment opportunities are consistent with
5 those offered to similarly situated employees
6 who are not student athletes and that such pro-
7 grams are not used to induce a student athlete
8 to attend an institution.

9 (H) Payment of an amount not to exceed
10 the academic stipend to any scholarship athlete
11 who is enrolled at such institution during the
12 entire season of competition for a varsity sport.

13 (4) The term “conference” shall mean any or-
14 ganization or association with solely institutions as
15 members that arranges championships and sets rules
16 for sports competition between varsity intercollegiate
17 teams.

18 (5) The term “institution” shall mean any “in-
19 stitution of higher education” as that term is de-
20 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act
21 (20 U.S.C. §1001).

22 (6) The term “student athlete” shall have the
23 same meaning as in section 2 of the Sports Agent
24 Responsibility and Trust Act (15 U.S.C. §7801).

1 (7) The term “varsity sports team” shall mean
2 a sports team of student athletes organized by an in-
3 stitution to compete against teams of student ath-
4 letes organized by other institutions at the highest
5 and most competitive level of intercollegiate competi-
6 tion in which student athletes from the institution
7 compete, and shall not include sports teams tradi-
8 tionally characterized as intramural or club teams.

9 (8) The term “name, image, and likeness
10 rights” means rights recognized under Federal or
11 State law that allow an individual to control and
12 profit from the commercial use of his or her name,
13 image, likeness, and persona, including all rights
14 commonly referred to as “publicity rights”.

15 **SEC. 3. IN GENERAL.**

16 An institution, interstate intercollegiate athletic asso-
17 ciation, or conference shall not be in violation of any law
18 or regulation, and shall not be subject to any manner of
19 claim or cause of action, whether class, individual or other-
20 wise, or any liabilities whatsoever, including under any
21 Federal or State law for—

22 (1) the adoption of, agreement to, enforcement
23 of, or compliance with any rule or bylaw of an inter-
24 state intercollegiate athletic association, conference,
25 or institution that limits or prohibits a student ath-

1 lete from receiving compensation from an interstate
2 intercollegiate athletic association, conference, insti-
3 tution, or other person or entity;

4 (2) restricting the eligibility of a student athlete
5 who violates a rule of the institution, interstate
6 intercollegiate athletic association, or conference
7 from participation on a varsity sports team; or

8 (3) complying with an agreement, under-
9 standing, rule, or bylaw adopted by an institution,
10 conference, or association (or a combination of con-
11 ferences or institutions) that is reasonably con-
12 templated under Federal law.

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