118TH CONGRESS  
2D Session  
H. R. 8534  

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

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 Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Student Athletes’ Economic Freedom Act”.

4 SEC. 2. EMPLOYMENT STANDINGS.

5 Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law, a student athlete (or former student athlete)
may not be considered an employee of an institution, a
class, or an association under any Federal or State
law or regulation based on participation of the student
athlete (or former student athlete) in a varsity intercolle-
giate athletics program or a varsity intercollegiate ath-
etics competition, or the existence of rules or require-
ments for being a member of any varsity sports team.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

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

(B) arranges championships for varsity
intercollegiate athletics programs;

(C) sets rules for varsity intercollegiate
athletics programs;

(D) sets rules for varsity intercollegiate
athletics competitions; and

(E) is not a conference.

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

(A) has multiple institutions as members;

(B) sets rules for varsity intercollegiate
athletics competitions;
(C) arranges championships for varsity intercollegiate athletics programs; and

(D) is not an association.

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

(4) STUDENT ATHLETE.—The term “student athlete” means an individual who participates in a varsity intercollegiate athletics program.

(5) VARSITY INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS COMPETITION.—The term “varsity intercollegiate athletics competition” means a competition involving 2 or more varsity intercollegiate athletics programs sponsored by different institutions.

(6) VARSITY INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS PROGRAM.—The term “varsity intercollegiate athletics program” means a team or other program unit of an institution participating in a sport—

(A) played at the intercollegiate level;

(B) administered by an athletic department; and
(C) for which eligibility requirements for participation by student athletes are established by an association.

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

(A) means a team of student athletes organized by a varsity intercollegiate athletics program to participate in a varsity intercollegiate athletics competition; and

(B) does not include a team that is traditionally characterized as an intramural or club team.