

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5021

To require a sports diplomacy strategy to strategically leverage the major sporting events being hosted in the United States in the next decade to enhance United States soft power, diplomatic relationships, and global leadership, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 22, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. McCaul, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. LIEU, Ms. TITUS, Mr. AMO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. McBRIDE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BACON, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. KIM, Mr. McCORMICK, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. STANTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require a sports diplomacy strategy to strategically leverage the major sporting events being hosted in the United States in the next decade to enhance United States soft power, diplomatic relationships, and global leadership, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “American Decade of
3 Sports Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. MEGA-DECADE SPORTS DIPLOMACY STRATEGY.**

5 (a) SUBMISSION.—

6 (1) INITIAL STRATEGY.—Not later than 120
7 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
8 Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Af-
9 fairs of the Department of State shall submit to the
10 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives and Committee on Foreign Relations of
12 the Senate a 5-year sports diplomacy strategy to
13 strategically leverage the major sporting events
14 being hosted in the United States to enhance United
15 States soft power, diplomatic relationships, and glob-
16 al leadership.

17 (2) SUBSEQUENT STRATEGY.—Not later than 5
18 years after the date on which the initial strategy is
19 submitted pursuant to paragraph (1), the Assistant
20 Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs shall
21 submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
22 House of Representatives and Committee on Foreign
23 Relations of the Senate a subsequent 5-year sports
24 diplomacy strategy in accordance with the require-
25 ments of this section.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The elements of each strategy re-
2 quired by subsection (a) shall include the following:

3 (1) A description of the Department of State’s
4 diplomatic objectives and metrics of success related
5 to the mega-decade of sports.

6 (2) A plan to partner with local host cities, di-
7 aspora communities, creatives, athletes, the sports
8 industry, private sector entities, human rights orga-
9 nizations, and civil society stakeholders surrounding
10 the competitions for the purpose of showcasing
11 United States national strengths and forging new
12 diplomatic connections.

13 (3) A plan to coordinate internally within the
14 Department of State to leverage sporting events to
15 advance various diplomatic lines of effort, including
16 by—

17 (A) integrating sports diplomacy into re-
18 gional bureaus’ bilateral engagements and ef-
19 forts to pursue new areas of cooperation with
20 foreign partners;

21 (B) integrating sports into public diplo-
22 macy to reach new foreign audiences that might
23 not otherwise engage with United States embas-
24 sies abroad; and

1 (C) leveraging sports diplomacy to advance
2 commercial diplomacy.

3 (4) A plan to ensure an expeditious and secure
4 visa process for athletes and their families and sup-
5 port staff and eligible international visitors planning
6 to travel to the United States to attend the games,
7 including reducing visa appointment wait times.

8 (5) A description of the financial and personnel
9 support needed to implement the 5-year sports diplo-
10 macy strategy.

11 (6) Any plans to deploy domestic public diplo-
12 macy resources, such as the Cultural Unit and For-
13 eign Press Center established during the 1984
14 Olympic Games, to enable foreign visitors to engage
15 with American culture and values.

16 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each strategy required
17 by subsection (a) shall be made publicly available on an
18 internet website of the Department of State not later than
19 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
20 again 5 years later.

21 (d) CONSULTATION.—Prior to the submission of each
22 strategy required by subsection (a), the Assistant Sec-
23 retary for Educational and Cultural Affairs shall consult
24 with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
25 Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations

1 of the Senate on the elements of the strategy and every
2 180 days thereafter provide information on the implemen-
3 tation of each strategy until December 31, 2034.

4 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT FOR THE OFFICE OF SPORTS DIPLO-**
5 **MACY TO CARRY OUT THE MEGA-DECADE OF**
6 **SPORTS DIPLOMACY STRATEGY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—No later than 90 days after the
8 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall rename
9 the sports diplomacy division of the Department of State
10 as the Office of Sports Diplomacy. The Office shall report
11 directly to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Professional
12 and Cultural Exchanges in the Bureau of Educational and
13 Cultural Affairs. The Office shall be responsible for man-
14 aging sports diplomacy exchange programs and imple-
15 menting each strategy required by section 2(a), including
16 by carrying out the following:

17 (1) Coordinating implementation of the strategy
18 across relevant bureaus, directorates, and offices of
19 the Department of State.

20 (2) Working with host cities and their social,
21 political, and economic partners to identify new ave-
22 nues for engagement with foreign entities.

23 (3) Engaging local diaspora communities to
24 deepen people-to-people connections with foreign
25 visitors and officials.

1 (4) Partnering with the United States sports
2 industry, major sports leagues, and individual ath-
3 letes to promote new international sports partner-
4 ships and sports diplomacy programs.

5 (5) Collaborating with host cities' international
6 trade and tourism offices to deepen economic and
7 commercial ties with foreign nations.

8 (6) Elevating American arts, film, and music
9 creators to promote cultural exchange and connec-
10 tion with foreign visitors.

11 (7) Coordinating with internal Department and
12 interagency stakeholders to ensure efficient and ex-
13 peditious processing of visas for eligible international
14 visitors, broadcasters, athletes, and support staff in-
15 terested in attending the games.

16 (b) FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES.—The
17 Secretary of State shall, not later than 180 days after the
18 date of the enactment of this Act, and until December 31,
19 2034, assign to the Office of Sports Diplomacy established
20 under subsection (a) not less than 3 additional full-time
21 equivalent staff dedicated to implementing each strategy
22 required by section 2(a). Such staff shall not be dual-
23 hatted, and shall be assigned to the Office by considering
24 mechanisms, including—

1 (1) the use of existing flexible hiring authori-
2 ties, including Domestic Employees Teleworking
3 Overseas (DETOs); and

4 (2) the realignment of existing personnel.

5 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.**

6 Not later than 1 year after the submission of the
7 strategy required in section 2(a), and annually thereafter
8 until December 31, 2034, the Secretary of State shall sub-
9 mit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
10 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
11 tions of the Senate a report on the progress toward achiev-
12 ing the objectives of this Act.

13 **SEC. 5. DEFINITION.**

14 In this Act, the terms “mega-decade of sports” and
15 “American decade of sports” mean the major inter-
16 national sporting competitions hosted in the United States
17 between 2024 and 2034, including the 2024 Copa Amer-
18 ica, 2025 Club World Cup, 2026 FIFA World Cup, 2028
19 Summer Olympics and Paralympics, the 2031 Men’s and
20 2033 Women’s Rugby World Cup, and the 2034 Winter
21 Olympics and Paralympics.

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