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2D SESSION

S. 3676

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 15, 2026

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. CURTIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To require a sports diplomacy strategy to strategically leverage the major sporting events being hosted in the United States during 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “American Decade of
5 Sports Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) AMERICAN DECADE OF SPORTS; MEGA-DEC-
 2 ADE OF SPORTS.—The terms “American decade of
 3 sports” and “mega-decade of sports” mean the
 4 major international sporting competitions hosted in
 5 the United States between 2024 and 2034, includ-
 6 ing—

7 (A) the 2024 Copa America;

8 (B) the 2025 Club World Cup;

9 (C) the 2026 FIFA World Cup;

10 (D) the 2028 Summer Olympics and
 11 Paralympics;

12 (E) the 2031 Men’s and 2033 Women’s
 13 Rugby World Cup; and

14 (F) the 2034 Winter Olympics and
 15 Paralympics.

16 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
 17 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
 18 mittees” means—

19 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
 20 the Senate; and

21 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
 22 the House of Representatives.

23 **SEC. 3. MEGA-DECADE SPORTS DIPLOMACY STRATEGY.**

24 (a) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the
 25 date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than 5

1 years after such date, the Secretary of State shall submit
2 to the appropriate congressional committees a 5-year
3 sports diplomacy strategy to strategically leverage the
4 major sporting events being hosted in the United States
5 to enhance United States soft power, diplomatic relation-
6 ships, and global leadership.

7 (b) ELEMENTS.—Both strategies required under sub-
8 section (a) shall include—

9 (1) a description of the Department of State’s
10 diplomatic objectives and metrics of success related
11 to the mega-decade of sports;

12 (2) a plan to partner with local host cities, dias-
13 pora communities, creatives, athletes, the sports in-
14 dustry, private sector entities, human rights organi-
15 zations, and civil society stakeholders surrounding
16 the competitions for the purpose of showcasing
17 United States national strengths and forging new
18 diplomatic connections;

19 (3) a plan to coordinate internally within the
20 Department of State to leverage sporting events to
21 advance various diplomatic lines of effort, including
22 by—

23 (A) integrating sports diplomacy into re-
24 gional bureaus’ bilateral engagements and ef-

1 forts to pursue new areas of cooperation with
2 foreign partners;

3 (B) integrating sports into public diplo-
4 macy to reach new foreign audiences that might
5 not otherwise engage with United States embas-
6 sies abroad; and

7 (C) leveraging sports diplomacy to advance
8 commercial diplomacy;

9 (4) a plan to ensure an expeditious and secure
10 visa process for athletes and their families and sup-
11 port staff and eligible international visitors planning
12 to travel to the United States to attend major inter-
13 national sporting events, including reducing visa ap-
14 pointment wait times;

15 (5) a description of the financial and personnel
16 support needed to implement the 5-year sports diplo-
17 macy strategy; and

18 (6) any plans to deploy domestic public diplo-
19 macy resources, such as the Cultural Unit and For-
20 eign Press Center established during the 1984
21 Olympic Games, to enable foreign visitors to engage
22 with American culture and values.

23 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategies required
24 under subsection (a) shall be made publicly available on

1 an internet website of the Department of State not later
2 than—

3 (1) 180 days after the date of the enactment of
4 this Act, with respect to the first 5-year strategy; or

5 (2) 5 years after the date described in para-
6 graph (1), with respect to the second 5-year strat-
7 egy.

8 (d) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of State shall—

9 (1) consult with the appropriate congressional
10 committees regarding the elements of the strategy
11 required under subsection (a) before submitting ei-
12 ther strategy; and

13 (2) provide information regarding the imple-
14 mentation of the most recently submitted strategy
15 every 180 days during the period beginning on the
16 date of such submission and ending on December
17 31, 2034.

18 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT FOR THE OFFICE OF SPORTS DIPLO-**
19 **MACY TO CARRY OUT THE MEGA-DECADE OF**
20 **SPORTS DIPLOMACY STRATEGY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
23 shall rename the Sports Diplomacy Division in the Bureau
24 of Educational and Cultural Affairs as the Office of Sports
25 Diplomacy (referred to in this section as the “Office”).

1 The Office shall be under the general supervision of the
2 Deputy Assistant Secretary for Professional and Cultural
3 Exchanges in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Af-
4 fairs.

5 (b) FUNCTIONS.—The Office shall manage sports di-
6 plomacy exchange programs and implement each strategy
7 required under section 3(a), including by coordinating
8 with internal Department of State and interagency stake-
9 holders—

10 (1) to coordinate the implementation of the
11 strategy across relevant bureaus, directorates, and
12 offices of the Department of State;

13 (2) to work with host cities and their social, po-
14 litical, and economic partners to identify new ave-
15 nues for engagement with foreign entities;

16 (3) to engage local diaspora communities to
17 deepen people-to-people connections with foreign
18 visitors and officials;

19 (4) to partner with the United States sports in-
20 dustry, major sports leagues, and individual athletes
21 to promote new international sports partnerships
22 and sports diplomacy programs;

23 (5) to collaborate with host cities' international
24 trade and tourism offices to deepen economic and
25 commercial ties with foreign nations;

1 (6) to elevate American arts, film, and music
2 creators to promote cultural exchange and connec-
3 tion with foreign visitors; and

4 (7) to coordinate with internal Department of
5 State and interagency stakeholders to ensure effi-
6 cient and expeditious processing of visas for eligible
7 international visitors, broadcasters, athletes, and
8 support staff interested in attending major inter-
9 national sporting events in the United States.

10 (c) **FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES.**—During
11 the period beginning not later than 180 days after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December
13 31, 2034, the Secretary of State shall assign to the Office
14 not fewer than 3 additional full-time equivalent staff dedi-
15 cated exclusively to implementing each strategy required
16 under section 3(a). These staff shall be assigned to the
17 Office by considering mechanisms, including—

18 (1) the use of existing flexible hiring authori-
19 ties, including Domestic Employees Teleworking
20 Overseas; and

21 (2) the realignment of existing personnel.

22 **SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS.**

23 Not later than 1 year after the submission of the first
24 strategy required under section 2(a), and annually there-
25 after until December 31, 2034, the Secretary of State

- 1 shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional
- 2 committees describing the progress made toward achieving
- 3 the objectives of this Act.

