

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

[To be provided.]

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice
and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

[To be provided.]

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 **[“_____ Act of**
5 **2026”]**.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 (a) REFERENCES TO SPORTS BROADCASTING ACT OF
8 1961.—In this Act, the term “Sports Broadcasting Act
9 of 1961” means the Act of September 30, 1961 (15
10 U.S.C. 1291 et seq.).

1 (b) AMENDMENTS TO SPORTS BROADCASTING ACT
2 OF 1961.—Section 5 of the Sports Broadcasting Act of
3 1961 (15 U.S.C. 1295) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “As used in this Act, ‘persons’
5 means” and inserting the following: “As used in this
6 Act:”

7 “(8) PERSONS.—The term ‘persons’ means”;
8 and

9 (2) by inserting before paragraph (8), as so
10 designated, the following:

11 “(1) ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘athletic as-
13 sociation’ means any organization or other
14 group organized in the United States that—

15 “(i) has multiple conferences and in-
16 stitutions as members;

17 “(ii) sponsors or arranges college ath-
18 letic competitions between institutions;

19 “(iii) sets common rules, standards,
20 procedures, or guidelines for the adminis-
21 tration of college athletic competition; and

22 “(iv) is not a conference.

23 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘athletic as-
24 sociation’ includes—

1 “(i) the National Collegiate Athletic
2 Association; and

3 “(ii) any other national intercollegiate
4 athletic association.

5 “(2) COLLEGE ATHLETIC COMPETITION.—The
6 term ‘college athletic competition’ means any varsity
7 game, meet, or other competition between or among
8 athletic teams sponsored by an institution.

9 “(3) CONFERENCE.—The term ‘conference’
10 means any organization that is not an athletic asso-
11 ciation and that—

12 “(A) has 2 or more institutions as mem-
13 bers; and

14 “(B) arranges championships for college
15 athletic competition or sets rules for college
16 athletic competition.

17 “(4) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
18 tity’ means an eligible association described in sec-
19 tion 1(b)(2)that enters into a joint agreement de-
20 scribed in section 1(b)(1).

21 “(5) INSTITUTION.—The term ‘institution’ has
22 the meaning given the term ‘institution of higher
23 education’ in section 101 of the Higher Education
24 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

1 “(6) MEMBER CONFERENCE.—The term ‘mem-
2 ber conference’, with respect to a covered entity,
3 means a conference that is a member of the covered
4 entity.

5 “(7) MEMBER INSTITUTION.—The term ‘mem-
6 ber institution’, with respect to a covered entity,
7 means an institution that is a member of the cov-
8 ered entity.”.

9 **SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY FOR TRANSMISSION OF**
10 **COLLEGIATE SPORTS COMPETITIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Sports Broad-
12 casting Act of 1961 (15 U.S.C. 1291) is amended—

13 (1) by striking “That the” and inserting the
14 following:

15 **“SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS FROM**
16 **ANTITRUST LAWS.**

17 “(a) PROFESSIONAL SPORTS.—The”; and

18 (2) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(b) COLLEGE SPORTS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The antitrust laws, as de-
21 fined in subsection (a), shall not apply to any joint
22 agreement by or among persons engaging in or con-
23 ducting organized college athletic competitions,
24 through which an association described in paragraph

1 (2) of institutions participating in any such competi-
2 tion—

3 “(A) sells or otherwise transfers all or any
4 part of the rights of those institutions in the
5 audio-visual, audio, or visual broadcasts or
6 other distributions of those competitions; and

7 “(B) distributes revenues from the sale of
8 those rights, which distribution, in the case of
9 an association described in paragraph (2)(A), is
10 determined in accordance with section 5.

11 “(2) ELIGIBLE ASSOCIATION.—An association
12 described in this paragraph is—

13 “(A) a voluntary association of institutions
14 or conferences that includes, at a minimum, as
15 of the date on which the joint agreement de-
16 scribed in paragraph (1) is entered into—

17 “(i) not fewer than 5 conferences par-
18 ticipating in the Football Bowl Subdivi-
19 sion; and

20 “(ii) not fewer than 8 institutions par-
21 ticipating in the Football Bowl Subdivi-
22 sion; or

23 “(B) a voluntary association of institutions
24 or conferences that does not include any institu-
25 tion that is among the 138 highest earning in-

1 stitutions by athletics revenue during the 2026–
2 2027 academic year.”.

3 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

4 The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is amended—

5 (1) in section 2 (15 U.S.C. 1292)—

6 (A) by striking “Section 1” and inserting
7 “Section 1(a)”; and

8 (B) by striking “in section 1” and insert-
9 ing “in section 1(a)”; and

10 (2) in section 3 (15 U.S.C. 1293), by striking
11 “section 1” each place it appears and inserting “sec-
12 tion 1(a)”; and

13 (3) in section 4 (15 U.S.C. 1294), by striking
14 “section 1” and inserting “section 1(a)”.

15 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTITIES SELLING MEDIA**
16 **RIGHTS FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.**

17 The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating sections 5 and 6 (15
19 U.S.C. 1295, 1291 note) as sections 8 and 9, respec-
20 tively; and

21 (2) by inserting after section 4 (15 U.S.C.
22 1294) the following:

23 **“SEC. 5. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTITIES SELLING MEDIA**
24 **RIGHTS FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.**

25 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—

1 “(1) ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT.—The term ‘ath-
2 letic department’ means a department at, or a com-
3 ponent of, an institution responsible for managing
4 one or more varsity intercollegiate sports programs.

5 “(2) COLLECTIVE MEDIA RIGHTS REVENUE.—
6 The term ‘collective media rights revenue’ means
7 revenue derived from the sale or transfer of all or
8 any parts of the rights of the member institutions of
9 the covered entity in the audio-visual, audio, or vis-
10 ual broadcasts or other distributions of college ath-
11 letic competitions in football participated in by the
12 member institutions resulting from a joint agree-
13 ment described in section 1(b)(1).

14 “(3) STUDENT ATHLETE.—The term ‘student
15 athlete’ means a matriculated student at an institu-
16 tion who participates in a varsity intercollegiate
17 sport managed by the institution.

18 “(4) VARSITY INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT.—The
19 term ‘varsity intercollegiate sport’ means a sport
20 played at the intercollegiate level, administered by
21 an athletic department, for which eligibility require-
22 ments for participation by student athletes are es-
23 tablished by an athletic association.

24 “(b) CONDITION ON ANTITRUST EXEMPTION.—Sec-
25 tion 1(b)(1) shall not apply to any joint agreement entered

1 into by a covered entity unless the covered entity complies
2 with the requirements under subsections (c) through (h)
3 of this section.

4 “(c) INCLUSIVITY REQUIREMENT.—A covered entity
5 described in section 1(b)(2)(A) shall offer membership to
6 each conference and each independent institution that is
7 in the Football Bowl Subdivision as of the date of enact-
8 ment of the **【_____ Act of 2026】**.

9 “(d) COMMITTEE.—

10 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—A covered entity shall
11 establish a committee (in this subsection referred to
12 as the ‘Committee’) with authority over—

13 “(A) the marketing and negotiation of the
14 sale or transfer of the collective media rights of
15 all member institutions; and

16 “(B) the distribution of collective media
17 rights revenue to member institutions.

18 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

19 “(A) SELECTION.—The members of the
20 Committee shall be selected by the presidents of
21 member institutions.

22 “(B) NUMBER.—The Committee shall con-
23 sist of 14 voting members having 1 vote each
24 except as otherwise provided in subsection (g).

25 “(3) REPRESENTATION.—

1 “(A) CURRENT OR FORMER STUDENT ATH-
2 LETES.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Three members of
4 the Committee shall be student athletes
5 who—

6 “(I) are student athletes as of
7 the date of their selection for the
8 Committee; or

9 “(II) were student athletes dur-
10 ing the 5-year period preceding the
11 date of their selection for the Com-
12 mittee.

13 “(ii) ATHLETES IN SPORTS OTHER
14 THAN FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL.—Not
15 less than 1 individual selected for the Com-
16 mittee under clause (i) shall be a current
17 or former student athlete who plays or
18 played a varsity intercollegiate sport other
19 than football or basketball.

20 “(iii) NO EMPLOYEES OF CON-
21 FERENCES OR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS.—
22 No individual selected for the Committee
23 under clause (i) may be a current or
24 former employee of a conference or athletic
25 association.

1 “(B) REPRESENTATIVES OF INSTITU-
2 TIONS.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Nine members of
4 the Committee shall be representatives of
5 member institutions or member con-
6 ferences.

7 “(ii) LIMIT ON MEMBERSHIP.—In any
8 academic year, not more than 5 members
9 of the Committee may be representatives
10 of—

11 “(I) the 50 member institutions
12 that contributed the most revenue to
13 the collective media rights revenue
14 during the preceding academic year;
15 or

16 “(II) the 4 member conferences
17 that contributed the most revenue to
18 the collective media rights revenue
19 during the preceding academic year.

20 “(C) EXPERT MEMBERS.—Two members
21 of the Committee—

22 “(i) shall have expertise in sports
23 media, sports marketing, or a related field
24 of expertise; and

1 “(ii) may not be an employee of a
2 member institution, a member conference,
3 or any media company with which the cov-
4 ered entity may contract for collective
5 media rights.

6 “(e) REVENUE ALLOCATION FORMULA.—

7 “(1) METHOD.—Not less frequently than once
8 each academic year, the covered entity shall dis-
9 tribute the collective media rights revenue among
10 member institutions.

11 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The distribution of col-
12 lective media rights revenue under paragraph (1)
13 shall—

14 “(A) ensure that each member institution
15 receives more collective media rights revenue
16 during each academic year than the institution
17 received during the 2024–2025 academic year;

18 “(B) distribute not less than 25 percent of
19 the collective media rights revenue that remains
20 after the distribution under subparagraph (A)
21 equally among all member institutions; and

22 “(C) distribute the collective media rights
23 revenue that remains after the distribution
24 under subparagraphs (A) and (B) to member
25 institutions based on the performance of each

1 institution during the academic year with re-
2 spect to the institution's contribution to the col-
3 lective media rights revenue.

4 “(f) INSTITUTIONAL ALLOCATION OF MEDIA RIGHTS
5 REVENUE.—Any member institution that receives collec-
6 tive media rights revenue shall offer and maintain at least
7 as many scholarships and roster spots for non-revenue-
8 generating varsity intercollegiate sports programs and
9 women's varsity intercollegiate sports programs during
10 each academic year as the institution provided during the
11 2023–2024 academic year.

12 “(g) WEIGHTED VOTING.—

13 “(1) ANNUAL REVIEW.—At the beginning of
14 each academic year, the Committee shall review the
15 weighted voting structure set forth in paragraph (2),
16 and unless the members of the Committee agree by
17 a majority vote to a different voting structure, the
18 voting structure shall be as provided in that para-
19 graph.

20 “(2) DEFAULT VOTING STRUCTURE.—

21 “(A) REPRESENTATIVES OF HIGHEST CON-
22 TRIBUTING INSTITUTIONS AND CON-
23 FERENCES.—Except as provided in subpara-
24 graph (B), for purposes of determining the dis-
25 tribution of revenue under section (e)(2)(C) for

1 an academic year, each committee member who
2 represents one of the 50 member institutions
3 that contributed the most revenue to the collec-
4 tive media rights revenue during the preceding
5 academic year or one of the 4 member con-
6 ferences that contributed the most revenue to
7 the collective media rights revenue during the
8 preceding academic year shall have 1.5 votes.

9 “(B) SMALLER COVERED ENTITY.—If the
10 covered entity consists of fewer than 70 institu-
11 tions, for purposes of determining the distribu-
12 tion of revenue under section (e)(2)(C) for an
13 academic year, each committee member who
14 represents a member institution that was
15 among the top 55 percent of member institu-
16 tions with respect to contributions to the collec-
17 tive media rights revenue during the preceding
18 academic year shall have 1.5 votes.

19 “(h) CONTRIBUTION OF MEDIA RIGHTS.—

20 “(1) CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION.—The cov-
21 ered entity shall require each member institution, as
22 a condition of receiving a distribution of collective
23 media rights revenue from the covered entity, to ir-
24 revocably contribute to the covered entity all rights
25 of the institution in the audio-visual, audio, or visual

1 broadcasts or other distributions of college athletic
2 competitions.

3 “(2) EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY.—The covered en-
4 tity shall have the exclusive authority to negotiate,
5 sell, license, sublicense, and otherwise transfer con-
6 tributed rights, as described in subparagraph (A) on
7 a pooled basis.

8 “(3) BINDING AGREEMENT.—The covered enti-
9 ty shall maintain a written agreement, binding on all
10 member institutions, that governs the collection and
11 distribution of collective media rights revenue for the
12 duration of the agreement.”.

13 **SEC. 5. MARKET-LEVEL BROADCAST ACCESS FOR COLLEGE**
14 **FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL.**

15 The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is amended by
16 inserting after section 5 (as added by section 4 of this
17 Act) the following:

18 **“SEC. 6. MARKET-LEVEL BROADCAST ACCESS FOR COL-**
19 **LEGE FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL.**

20 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) DESIGNATED MARKET AREA.—The term
22 ‘designated market area’ has the meaning given the
23 term in section 122(j)(2)(C) of title 17, United
24 States Code.

25 “(2) LOCAL DESIGNATED MARKET AREA.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘local des-
2 gnated market area’ means a designated mar-
3 ket area that includes the principal campus of
4 an institution that is a member of a covered en-
5 tity.

6 “(B) PUBLICATION OF LIST.—The Federal
7 Communications Commission shall—

8 “(i) not later than 180 days after the
9 date of enactment of the [_____ Act of
10 2026], publish a list of designated market
11 areas described in subparagraph (A); and

12 “(ii) maintain the list described in
13 clause (i) on a public website.

14 “(3) LOCAL OUTLET OPTION.—The term ‘Local
15 Outlet option’ means the opportunity for not less
16 than 1 outlet to carry a live college athletic competi-
17 tion without charge to viewers within the local des-
18 ignated market area of an institution that is partici-
19 pating in the competition.

20 “(b) REQUIREMENT OF LOCAL OUTLET OPTION.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of the ex-
22 emption under section 1(b)(1), a covered entity shall
23 make available, on a non-exclusive basis, for each
24 college athletic competition in football or basketball,
25 not less than 1 Local Outlet option in the local des-

1 ignated market area of each institution participating
2 in the competition.

3 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
4 paragraph (1) shall be construed to require carriage
5 of an college athletic competition by more than 1
6 local outlet in a given designated market area.

7 “(3) NO EFFECT ON NATIONAL MEDIA AGREE-
8 MENTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall limit the
9 covered entity’s ability to negotiate nationwide or re-
10 gional media agreements.

11 “(c) GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATION.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each covered entity, and
13 any network, distributor, or licensee holding market-
14 level rights or seeking Local Outlet option rights to
15 college athletic competitions described in subsection
16 (b), shall negotiate in good faith to fulfill the re-
17 quirement of that subsection.

18 “(2) ENFORCEMENT.—The Federal Commu-
19 nications Commission shall have jurisdiction over
20 complaints alleging a violation of paragraph (1).”.

1 **SEC. 6. STREAMING RIGHTS UTILIZATION REQUIREMENT**
2 **FOR COLLEGE SPORTS OTHER THAN FOOT-**
3 **BALL AND BASKETBALL.**

4 The Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 is amended by
5 inserting after section 6 (as added by section 5 of this
6 Act) the following:

7 **“SEC. 7. STREAMING RIGHTS UTILIZATION REQUIREMENT**
8 **FOR COLLEGE SPORTS OTHER THAN FOOT-**
9 **BALL AND BASKETBALL.**

10 “(a) **REQUIREMENT OF USE.**—A broadcast network,
11 streaming platform, or other distributor to which any
12 streaming or digital distribution rights to college athletic
13 competitions in sports other than football or basketball are
14 sold, licensed, or otherwise conveyed by a covered entity
15 or its member institutions or member conferences shall af-
16 firmatively use those rights by making the competitions
17 reasonably available to the public not later than 1 year
18 after the effective date of the agreement under which the
19 rights are sold, licensed, or otherwise conveyed.

20 “(b) **REVERSION OF RIGHTS.**—

21 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If a broadcast network,
22 streaming platform, or other distributor to which
23 streaming or digital distribution rights are sold, li-
24 censed, or otherwise conveyed as described in sub-
25 section (a) does not use, or materially underutilizes,
26 the rights during the 1-year period beginning on the

1 effective date of the agreement under which the
2 rights are sold, licensed, or otherwise conveyed, the
3 rights shall automatically revert to the originating
4 covered entity, institution, or conference.

5 “(2) RECONVEYANCE.—Upon the reversion of
6 rights under paragraph (1), the originating covered
7 entity, institution, or conference may resell, reli-
8 cense, or otherwise reconvey the rights to another
9 entity without penalty or liability for breach of the
10 original agreement described in that paragraph.”.