

STATE OF NEW YORK

5115--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 11, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "New York collegiate athletic participation compensation act"

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "New York collegiate athletic participation compensation act".

3 § 2. The education law is amended by adding two new sections 6438-a
4 and 6438-b to read as follows:

5 § 6438-a. Student-athlete compensation. 1. (a) A college shall not
6 uphold any rule, requirement, standard, or other limitation that
7 prevents a student of that institution participating in intercollegiate
8 athletics from earning compensation pursuant to this section including
9 as a result of the use of the student's name, image, or likeness. Earn-
10 ing compensation as a result of the use of a student's name, image, or
11 likeness shall not affect the student's scholarship eligibility.

12 (b) An athletic association, conference, or other group or organiza-
13 tion with authority over intercollegiate athletics, including, but not
14 limited to, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), shall
15 not prevent a student of a college participating in intercollegiate
16 athletics from earning compensation pursuant to this section including
17 as a result of the use of the student's name, image, or likeness.

18 (c) An athletic association, conference, or other group or organiza-
19 tion with authority over intercollegiate athletics, including, but not
20 limited to, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), shall
21 not prevent a college from participating in intercollegiate athletics as
22 a result of the compensation of a student-athlete pursuant to this
23 section including for the use of the student's name, image, or likeness.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (d) A community college shall be exempt from the requirements of this
2 section.

3 2. A college, athletic association, conference, or other group or
4 organization with authority over intercollegiate athletics shall not
5 provide a prospective student-athlete with compensation in relation to
6 the athlete's name, image, or likeness.

7 3. (a) A college, athletic association, conference, or other group or
8 organization with authority over intercollegiate athletics shall not
9 prevent a student-athlete participating in intercollegiate athletics
10 from obtaining professional representation in relation to contracts or
11 legal matters, including, but not limited to, representation provided by
12 athlete agents or legal representation provided by attorneys.

13 (b) Professional representation obtained by student-athletes shall be
14 from persons registered and/or licensed by the state. Professional
15 representation provided by athlete agents shall be by persons registered
16 pursuant to article thirty-nine-E of the general business law. Legal
17 representation of student-athletes shall be by attorneys licensed pursu-
18 ant to article fifteen of the judiciary law.

19 (c) Athlete agents representing student-athletes shall comply with the
20 federal Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act, established in chap-
21 ter 104 of title 15 of the United States Code, in their relationships
22 with student-athletes.

23 4. A scholarship from the college in which a student is enrolled that
24 provides the student with the cost of attendance at that institution is
25 not compensation for purposes of this section, and a scholarship shall
26 not be revoked as a result of earning compensation, or obtaining legal
27 or athletic agent representation.

28 5. (a) A student-athlete shall not enter into a contract providing
29 compensation to the athlete for use of the athlete's name, image, or
30 likeness if a provision of the contract causes a conflict as described
31 in paragraph (d) of this subdivision.

32 (b) A student-athlete who enters into a contract providing compen-
33 sation to the athlete for use of the athlete's name, image, or likeness
34 shall disclose the contract in advance of executing it to an official of
35 the college, to be designated by the college.

36 (c) A college asserting a conflict described in paragraph (a) of this
37 subdivision shall disclose to the athlete or the athlete's legal repre-
38 sentation the relevant contractual provisions that are in conflict.

39 (d) A college asserting a conflict described in paragraph (a) of this
40 subdivision may assert a conflict based on, but not limited to, the
41 following grounds:

42 (i) the proposed contract would cause the student to violate the team
43 contract; or

44 (ii) the proposed contract would cause the student to violate the
45 institution's student handbook or code of conduct; or

46 (iii) the proposed contract would conflict with an existing contract
47 or sponsorship the institution participates in; or

48 (iv) the proposed contract would reasonably be judged to cause finan-
49 cial loss or reputational damage to the institution; or

50 (v) the proposed contract would require actions by the player during
51 team activities; or

52 (vi) the proposed contract would require actions by the player during
53 scheduled classes; or

54 (vii) the proposed contract would use the institution's name or brand
55 or copywritten materials.

6. After the effective date of this section, a new team contract or a renewal or modification of a team contract of a college's athletic program shall not prevent a student-athlete from using the athlete's name, image, or likeness for a commercial purpose when the athlete is not engaged in official team activities, except where there is a conflict as described in paragraph (d) of subdivision five of this section.

7. Each college athletic program that participates in Division 1 NCAA athletics shall offer a student-athlete assistance program or programs, designed to provide student-athletes participating in Division 1 sports with important tools aimed to enhance their well-being and experiences in the classroom, off the field of play, and beyond their tenure as student-athletes. The student-athlete assistance program may include but not be limited to:

(a) A dedicated financial distress fund that would support enrolled and/or current student-athletes in times of financial need.

(b) Access to ongoing mental health support services provided by counselors specially trained to understand the unique issues and pressures student-athletes confront.

(c) Access to broad-based financial literacy training, with a specific emphasis on the issues and opportunities relevant to student-athletes, during and beyond their tenure at the college or university.

(d) A student-athlete degree completion assistance program that provides former student-athletes who disenrolled from the institution in good academic standing and who earned the NCAA Academic Progress Rate eligibility point (for Division I institutions), before completing their degree, access to need-based financial aid and counseling assistance required to support undergraduate degree completion.

(e) Access to training regarding sex-based discrimination and harassment that ensures student-athletes fully understand their rights and responsibilities under the law, including how to make a report of discrimination or harassment on their campus.

(f) Access to leadership training that will set the conditions for student-athletes to become successful leaders, improve communication skills, make positive decisions, and manage conflict.

(g) Access to a career development program, positioned to assist student-athletes in transferring the valuable skills developed during sport participation, to a successful post-college or university career.

§ 6438-b. Community college athlete name, image and likeness working group. 1. There shall be established within the department by the chancellor of the state university of New York, the community college athlete name, image and likeness working group, to examine and review existing state university of New York athletic bylaws, state and federal laws and national athletic association bylaws regarding a college athlete's use of such athlete's name, image and likeness for compensation. The department shall provide necessary secretariat and support services to the working group.

2. (a) The community college athlete name, image and likeness working group shall consist of, but not be limited to, the following members:

(i) one representative from the office of the chancellor of the state university of New York;

(ii) at least two community college student-athletes appointed by the chancellor's office;

(iii) a community college athletic administrator appointed by the chancellor's office;

1 (iv) a community college athletic coach appointed by the chancellor's
2 office;

3 (v) one member appointed by the governor;

4 (vi) one member appointed by the temporary president of the senate;
5 and

6 (vii) one member appointed by the speaker of the assembly.

7 (b) All appointments to the working group shall be completed on or
8 before July first, two thousand twenty-two.

9 3. On or before July first, two thousand twenty-three, the working
10 group shall provide a report to the governor, the speaker of the assem-
11 bly, the temporary president of the senate and the chancellor of the
12 state university of New York, which contains such working group's find-
13 ings and policy recommendations in connection with its review pursuant
14 to subdivision one of this section.

15 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
16 section 6438-a of the education law, as added by section two of this
17 act, shall take effect January 1, 2025.