

STATE OF NEW YORK

5115--D

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 11, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES, MAGNARELLI, AUBRY, CRUZ, TAYLOR, GIBBS, CUNNINGHAM, SIMON, MONTESANO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, 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 a new section 6438-a to
4 read as follows:

5 § 6438-a. Student-athlete compensation. 1. For the purposes of this
6 section:

7 (a) "student-athlete" shall mean a student enrolled at a college and
8 participating in intercollegiate athletics; and

9 (b) "team contract" shall mean any written agreement between a
10 student-athlete and a college, or division, department, program or team
11 thereof, which includes goals and objectives, standards, prohibitions,
12 broadcast, advertising or marketing rights or consents, rules or expec-
13 tations applicable to the student-athlete.

14 2. (a) A college shall not uphold any rule, requirement, standard, or
15 other limitation that prevents a student-athlete from earning compen-

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

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1 sation pursuant to this section as a result of the use of the student-
2 athlete's name, image, or likeness.

3 (b) An athletic association, conference, or other group or organiza-
4 tion with authority over intercollegiate athletics, including, but not
5 limited to, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), shall
6 not prevent a student-athlete from earning compensation pursuant to this
7 section as a result of the use of the student-athlete's name, image, or
8 likeness.

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

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

20 4. (a) A college, athletic association, conference, or other group or
21 organization with authority over intercollegiate athletics shall not
22 prevent a student-athlete from obtaining professional representation in
23 relation to contracts or legal matters, including, but not limited to,
24 representation provided by athlete agents or legal representation
25 provided by attorneys.

26 (b) Professional representation obtained by a student-athlete shall be
27 from persons registered and/or licensed by the state. Professional
28 representation provided by athlete agents shall be by persons registered
29 pursuant to article thirty-nine-E of the general business law. Legal
30 representation of student-athletes shall be by attorneys licensed pursu-
31 ant to article fifteen of the judiciary law.

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

36 5. A scholarship from the college in which a student-athlete is
37 enrolled that provides the student-athlete with the cost of attendance
38 at that college is not compensation for purposes of this section, and a
39 scholarship shall not be revoked due to earning compensation as a result
40 of the use of the student-athlete's name, image, or likeness, or due to
41 obtaining legal or athletic agent representation.

42 6. (a) A student-athlete shall not enter into a contract providing
43 compensation to the student-athlete for use of the student-athlete's
44 name, image, or likeness if a provision of the contract causes a
45 conflict pursuant to paragraph (d) of this subdivision.

46 (b) A student-athlete who enters into a contract providing compen-
47 sation to the student-athlete for use of the student-athlete's name,
48 image, or likeness shall disclose the contract in advance of executing
49 it to an official of the college, as designated by the college.

50 (c) A college asserting a conflict pursuant to paragraph (a) of this
51 subdivision shall disclose to the student-athlete or the student-
52 athlete's legal representation the relevant contractual provisions that
53 are in conflict; provided, however, that a college shall not be required
54 to disclose any financial terms of such contract unless otherwise
55 required by applicable law.

1 (d) A college asserting a conflict pursuant to paragraph (a) of this
2 subdivision may assert a conflict based on, but not limited to, the
3 following grounds:

4 (i) the proposed contract would cause the student-athlete to violate
5 the team contract; or

6 (ii) the proposed contract would cause the student-athlete to violate
7 the college's student handbook or code of conduct; or

8 (iii) the proposed contract would conflict with an existing contract
9 or sponsorship the college participates in; or

10 (iv) the proposed contract would reasonably be judged to cause finan-
11 cial loss or reputational damage to the college; or

12 (v) the proposed contract would require actions by the student-athlete
13 during team activities; or

14 (vi) the proposed contract would require actions by the student-ath-
15 lete during scheduled classes; or

16 (vii) the proposed contract would use the college's name, brand, copy-
17 written materials, trademarks, service marks, symbols, nicknames, trade
18 dress, insignia, mascot, uniform styles, colors, imagery, campus land-
19 marks, or any other intellectual property or indicia; or

20 (viii) the proposed contract would require the student-athlete to
21 display a sponsor's product, logo, brand, or other indicia, or otherwise
22 advertise for a sponsor, during official team activities; or

23 (ix) the proposed contract would require the student-athlete to
24 display a sponsor's product, logo, brand or other indicia, or otherwise
25 advertise for a sponsor at any time, and such sponsor is a competitor
26 of, or offers products or services within the same category as a sponsor
27 of the college.

28 7. A team of a college's athletic program shall not prevent a
29 student-athlete from using the student-athlete's name, image, or like-
30 ness for a commercial purpose when the student-athlete is not engaged in
31 official team activities, except where there is a conflict pursuant to
32 paragraph (d) of subdivision six of this section or any other prohibi-
33 tion in this section.

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

41 (a) a dedicated financial distress fund that would support student-
42 athletes in times of financial need. Disbursements from such fund are
43 not compensation for the purposes of this section;

44 (b) access to ongoing mental health support services provided by coun-
45 selors specially trained to understand the unique issues and pressures
46 student-athletes confront;

47 (c) access to broad-based financial literacy training, with a specific
48 emphasis on the issues and opportunities relevant to student-athletes,
49 during and beyond their tenure at the college;

50 (d) a degree completion assistance program that provides former
51 student-athletes who disenrolled from the college in good academic
52 standing and who earned the NCAA Academic Progress Rate eligibility
53 point for Division I institutions, before completing their degree,
54 access to need-based financial aid and counseling assistance required to
55 support undergraduate degree completion;

1 (e) access to training regarding sex-based discrimination and harass-
2 ment that ensures student-athletes fully understand their rights and
3 responsibilities under the law, including how to make a report of
4 discrimination or harassment on their campus;

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

8 (g) access to a career development program, positioned to assist
9 student-athletes in transferring the valuable skills developed during
10 intercollegiate athletic participation, to a successful post-college
11 career.

12 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
13 section 6438-a of the education law, as added by section two of this
14 act, shall take effect January 1, 2023 and shall apply to contracts
15 entered into, renewed, modified or amended on or after such date.