

STATE OF NEW YORK

6968

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 18, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. VANEL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to providing local professional sports broadcasts at no cost

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "open and unrestricted right to see team athletic displays for inhabitants of unique markets act".

§ 2. The general business law is amended by adding a new article 41-A to read as follows:

ARTICLE 41-A NO-COST SPORTS BROADCASTS

Section 1030. No-cost sports broadcasts.

§ 1030. No-cost sports broadcasts. 1. As used in this section the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "No-cost broadcaster" shall mean the entity that is responsible for disseminating a live athletic competition in any widely available audiovisual format to the public.

(b) "National or international professional sports league" shall mean any organized athletic league that is comprised of multiple teams from multiple states or countries in which athletes are compensated by their respective teams or the league and who compete against one another in athletic competition.

(c) "Broadcast" shall mean to disseminate live content in an audiovisual format.

2. (a) Every entity responsible for the broadcast rights of a sports team which is part of a national or international professional sports league shall ensure that every publicly broadcast athletic competition

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

LBD09319-03-5

1 played by such sports team which is played in a facility that is bene-
2 fitting or has benefitted from state funds, tax subsidies, eminent
3 domain, or another valuable benefit that was made at a cost to the
4 state, shall be made available to view at no cost to every household
5 within the county such facility is situated in and its adjoining coun-
6 ties, or if such sports team is affiliated with New York, but the facil-
7 ity in which such team's athletic competitions are played in is not
8 located within the state, such athletic competitions shall be made
9 available to view at no cost to all households located within any county
10 within the state with a population of one million or more.

11 (b) For purposes of this section, an athletic competition shall
12 presumptively be deemed to be made available to view at no cost to all
13 households located within the area required by this subdivision where
14 the entity responsible for the broadcast rights of a sports team
15 provides one or more reasonably accessible broadcasts of the athletic
16 competition that is reasonably calculated to reach the same number of
17 households that a paid option would have.

18 3. (a) A broadcast made available to view at no cost pursuant to
19 subdivision two of this section shall be either the same audiovisual
20 broadcast of such athletic competition which is available to view as
21 part of a paid service or shall be substantially equivalent.

22 (b) An entity responsible for the broadcast rights of a sports team as
23 described in subdivision two of this section shall supply, or require a
24 third party responsible for the paid broadcast of an athletic competi-
25 tion to supply, the no-cost broadcaster with an audiovisual broadcast of
26 an athletic competition which is the same or substantially equivalent to
27 the audiovisual broadcast of such athletic competition which is avail-
28 able to view as part of a paid service.

29 (c) An entity, or an employee, agent, or another at the direction of
30 the entity, shall not impose any restriction requiring the no-cost
31 broadcaster of an athletic competition to reduce the quality of the
32 audiovisual broadcast of such athletic competition to a quality that is
33 not the same or substantially equivalent to the audiovisual broadcast of
34 such athletic competition which is available to view as part of a paid
35 service.

36 4. Wherever the attorney general shall find that an entity has
37 violated this article, an application may be made by the attorney gener-
38 al in the name of the people of the state of New York to a court of
39 justice having jurisdiction to issue an injunction, and upon notice to
40 the defendant of not less than five days, to enjoin and restrain the
41 continuance of such violations; and if it shall appear to the satisfac-
42 tion of the court or justice, that the defendant has, in fact, violated
43 this section an injunction may be issued by such court or justice
44 enjoining and restraining any further violation, without requiring proof
45 that any entity has, in fact, been injured or damaged thereby. In any
46 such proceeding, the court may make allowances to the attorney general
47 as provided in paragraph six of subdivision (a) of section eighty-three
48 hundred three of the civil practice law and rules, and direct restitu-
49 tion. Whenever the court shall determine that a violation of this
50 section has occurred, the court may impose a civil penalty that, in the
51 court's discretion, will have the effect of deterring the entity from
52 engaging in future violations of this article. In connection with any
53 such proposed application, the attorney general is authorized to take
54 proof and make a determination of the relevant facts and to issue
55 subpoenas in accordance with the civil practice law and rules.

1 5. If any provision of this section or the application thereof to any
2 person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity thereof shall
3 not affect other provisions or applications of the section which can be
4 given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this
5 end the provisions of this section are severable.

6 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
7 it shall have become a law.