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H.B. 661
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Bird and Odioso

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SUMMARY

- Prohibits a student who is participating in middle or high school interscholastic athletics from earning compensation from the student's name, image, or likeness or earning any other compensation related to the student's position on the roster of an interscholastic athletics team.
- Makes a student who earns compensation prohibited by the bill ineligible to participate in the specific sport that is related to the compensation.
- Requires each organization that regulates interscholastic athletic conferences or events to adopt rules or bylaws to establish a procedure to investigate and make a determination regarding an allegation that a student has earned prohibited compensation and to establish an appeal process.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Name, image, or likeness for middle and high school athletes

Prohibitions

The bill prohibits any middle or high school, school district, interscholastic athletic conference, or organization that regulates interscholastic athletic conferences or events from permitting a student participating in middle or high school interscholastic athletics from either of the following:

- Earning compensation from the use of the student's name, image, or likeness (NIL) if that compensation is earned in connection with the student's participation in interscholastic athletics; or

- Earning any other compensation related to the student’s position on the roster of an interscholastic athletics team.¹

Ineligibility

A middle or high school, school district, interscholastic athletic conference, or organization that regulates interscholastic athletic conferences or events is prohibited from allowing a student who earns compensation in violation of the bill to participate in interscholastic athletics in the specific sport to which the compensation relates. The bill does not specify the ineligibility period’s duration. A student who is ineligible to participate in a sport for earning compensation in violation of the bill may participate in another sport that is not related to the prohibited compensation.

Each organization that regulates interscholastic athletic conferences or events must adopt rules or bylaws to implement the bill’s ban on athletic participation for a student who earns prohibited compensation. The organization must include the following in the rules or bylaws:

- A procedure to investigate an allegation that a student has earned prohibited compensation and to make a determination regarding the allegation; and
- A procedure for a student to appeal an adverse determination to the organization’s executive officer for reinstatement to participate in the sport related to the prohibited compensation.²

Student-athletes

The bill applies to any student who participates in athletic competitions or events administered by an organization that regulates interscholastic athletic conferences or events and to whom either of the following apply:

- The student is enrolled in a middle or high school;
- The student is participating in interscholastic athletics at a middle or high school at which the student is not enrolled under any of the following circumstances:
 - The student is homeschooled;
 - The student is enrolled in a community school or in a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) school and the student otherwise would be assigned to that middle or high school;
 - The student is enrolled in a chartered or nonchartered nonpublic school that does not offer an opportunity to participate in athletics;

¹ R.C. 3373.02.

² R.C. 3373.03.

- The student is participating in ice hockey at that middle or high school because the school district in which the student is enrolled does not offer ice hockey.³

Middle and high schools

The bill applies to any middle or high school, which is defined as any of the following that offers any of grades 7 through 12:

- A school operated by a city, local, exempted village, or joint vocational school district;
- A community school;
- A STEM school;
- A college-preparatory boarding school;
- A chartered nonpublic school;
- A nonchartered nonpublic school that is a member of an organization that regulates interscholastic athletic conferences or events.⁴

Other NIL authority

Beginning in November 2025, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) member schools approved a measure allowing Ohio student-athletes to enter into agreements and receive NIL compensation with some restrictions. Before that time, OHSAA bylaws prohibited Ohio student-athletes from earning NIL compensation.⁵ OHSAA is an organization that regulates and administers interscholastic athletic competitions in Ohio.⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-29-26

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³ R.C. 3373.01(B), by reference to R.C. 3313.536, 3313.537, 3313.5311, 3313.5312, and 3313.5313, not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 3373.01(A), by reference to R.C. Chapters 3314, 3326, and 3328.

⁵ See [NIL Resource Center](#), which is available by conducting a keyword “NIL” search on the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) website: ohsaa.org.

⁶ See page 4 of the [OHSAA Handbook \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the OHSAA website, ohsaa.org, by selecting the “About the OHSAA” link and accessing the “Full Handbook” link.