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S.B. 221
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. DeMora

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SUMMARY

- Prohibits state universities from entering into or renewing contracts under which the media rights to broadcast a university athletic event are granted exclusively to a streaming service.
- Requires state universities to provide enrolled students access to observe broadcasted university athletic events free of cost.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Prohibition on exclusive broadcasting rights

To the extent permitted by federal law, the bill prohibits state universities from entering into or renewing a contract where the media rights to broadcast a university athletic event are granted exclusively to a streaming service. The prohibition applies only to contracts entered into or renewed after the bill's effective date. Under the bill, university athletic events are intercollegiate athletic competitions in which a student-athlete or team of student-athletes affiliated with a state university participate.

State universities include the University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Central State University, the University of Cincinnati, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Miami University, Northeast Ohio Medical University, Ohio University, the Ohio State University, Shawnee State University, the University of Toledo, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University.¹

¹ R.C. 3345.87(A) and (B). See also R.C. 3345.011, not in the bill.

Student access to observe university athletic events

The bill requires state universities to provide enrolled students access, free of charge, to observe any university athletic events that are broadcast pursuant to a contract entered into in accordance with the above prohibition. The bill gives state universities discretion to determine the manner in which such access is provided.²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-06-24

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² R.C. 3345.87(C).