

751-107AX-21

Bill No. HB 1923

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_ (for drafter's use only)

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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ORIGINAL STAMP BELOW

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11 Representative(s) Benson offered the following:

12

13 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

14 On page 145, between lines 10 and 11, of the bill

15

16 insert:

17 Section 102. Effective July 1, 2001, subsection (2) of  
18 section 468.452, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 468.452 Definitions.--For purposes of this part, the  
20 term:

21 (2) "Athlete agent" means a person who, directly or  
22 indirectly, recruits or solicits a student athlete to enter  
23 into an agent contract, or who, for any type of financial  
24 gain, procures, offers, promises, or attempts to obtain  
25 employment or promotional fees or benefits for a student  
26 athlete with a professional sports team or as a professional  
27 athlete, or with any promoter who markets or attempts to  
28 market the student athlete's athletic ability or athletic  
29 reputation. This term includes all employees and other persons  
30 acting on behalf of an athlete agent who participate in the  
31 activities included under this subsection. The term does not

1 include a spouse, parent, sibling, grandparent, or guardian of  
2 the student athlete or an individual acting solely on behalf  
3 of a professional sports team or professional sports  
4 organization.

5 Section 103. Effective July 1, 2001, section 468.453,  
6 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 468.453 Licensure required; qualifications;  
8 ~~examination; bond; exception; license nontransferable.--~~

9 (1) Any person who practices as an athlete agent in  
10 this state must be licensed pursuant to this part.

11 (2) A person shall be licensed as an athlete agent if  
12 the applicant:

13 (a) Is at least 18 years of age.

14 (b) Is of good moral character.

15 ~~(c) Passes an examination provided by the department~~  
16 ~~which tests the applicant's proficiency to practice as an~~  
17 ~~athlete agent, including, but not limited to, knowledge of the~~  
18 ~~laws and rules of this state relating to athlete agents, this~~  
19 ~~part, and chapter 455.~~

20 ~~(c)(d)~~ Has completed the application form and remitted  
21 an application fee not to exceed \$500, ~~an examination fee not~~  
22 ~~to exceed the actual cost for the examination plus \$500,~~ an  
23 active licensure fee not to exceed \$2,000, and all other  
24 applicable fees provided for in this part or in chapter 455.

25 ~~(d)(e)~~ Has submitted to the department a fingerprint  
26 card for a criminal history records check. The fingerprint  
27 card shall be forwarded to the Division of Criminal Justice  
28 Information Systems within the Department of Law Enforcement  
29 for purposes of processing the fingerprint card to determine  
30 if the applicant has a criminal history record. The  
31 fingerprint card shall also be forwarded to the Federal Bureau

1 of Investigation for purposes of processing the fingerprint  
 2 card to determine if the applicant has a criminal history  
 3 record. The information obtained by the processing of the  
 4 fingerprint card by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
 5 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall be sent to the  
 6 department for the purpose of determining if the applicant is  
 7 statutorily qualified for licensure.

8 ~~(e)~~(f) Has not in any jurisdiction, within the  
 9 preceding 5 years, been convicted or found guilty of or  
 10 entered a plea of nolo contendere for, regardless of  
 11 adjudication, a crime which relates to the applicant's  
 12 practice or ability to practice as an athlete agent.

13 ~~(g) Has posted with the department a \$15,000 surety~~  
 14 ~~bond issued by an insurance company authorized to do business~~  
 15 ~~in this state. The bond shall be in favor of the State of~~  
 16 ~~Florida, Department of Business and Professional Regulation,~~  
 17 ~~for the use and benefit of any student athlete or college or~~  
 18 ~~university within Florida who or which is injured or damaged,~~  
 19 ~~including reasonable costs and attorney's fees, as a result of~~  
 20 ~~acts or omissions by the athlete agent pursuant to a license~~  
 21 ~~issued under this part. The bond shall be written in the form~~  
 22 ~~determined by the department. The bond shall provide that the~~  
 23 ~~athlete agent is responsible for the acts or omissions of any~~  
 24 ~~representatives acting under the athlete agent's supervision~~  
 25 ~~or authority. The bond shall be in effect for and cover all~~  
 26 ~~times that the athlete agent has an active license and~~  
 27 ~~conducts business pursuant to that license in this or any~~  
 28 ~~other state.~~

29 (3) An unlicensed individual may act as an athlete  
 30 agent if:

31 (a) A student athlete or person acting on the

1 athlete's behalf initiates communication with the individual;  
2 and

3 (b) Within 7 days after an initial act as an athlete  
4 agent, the individual submits an application for licensure.

5 ~~Members of The Florida Bar are exempt from the state laws and~~  
6 ~~rules component, and the fee for such, of the examination~~  
7 ~~required by this section.~~

8 (4) A license issued to an athlete agent is not  
9 transferable.

10 (5) By acting as an athlete agent in this state, a  
11 nonresident individual appoints the department as the  
12 individual's agent for service of process in any civil action  
13 related to the individual's acting as an athlete agent.

14 (6) The department may issue a temporary license while  
15 an application for licensure is pending. If the department  
16 issues a notice of intent to deny the license application, the  
17 initial temporary license expires and may not be extended  
18 during any proceeding or administrative or judicial review.

19 Section 104. Effective July 1, 2001, section 468.454,  
20 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21 468.454 Contracts.--

22 (1) An agent contract must be in a record, signed, or  
23 otherwise authenticated by the parties.

24 (2) An agent contract must state:

25 (a) The amount and method of calculating the  
26 consideration to be paid by the student athlete for services  
27 to be provided by the athlete agent and any other  
28 consideration the agent has received or will receive from any  
29 other source under the contract;

30 (b) The name of any person not listed in the licensure  
31 application who will be compensated because the student

1 athlete signed the agent contract;

2 (c) A description of any expenses that the student  
3 athlete agrees to reimburse;

4 (d) A description of the services to be provided to  
5 the student athlete;

6 (e) The duration of the contract; and

7 (f) The date of execution.

8 (3) An agent contract must contain, in close proximity  
9 to the signature of the student athlete, a conspicuous notice  
10 in boldface type in capital letters stating:

11  
12 WARNING TO STUDENT ATHLETE

13  
14 IF YOU SIGN THE CONTRACT:

15 1. YOU MAY LOSE YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE AS  
16 A STUDENT ATHLETE IN YOUR SPORT;

17 2. IF YOU HAVE AN ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, WITHIN 72  
18 HOURS AFTER ENTERING INTO THE CONTRACT, YOU AND  
19 YOUR ATHLETE AGENT MUST NOTIFY YOUR ATHLETIC  
20 DIRECTOR; AND

21 3. YOU MAY CANCEL THIS CONTRACT WITHIN 14 DAYS  
22 AFTER SIGNING IT. HOWEVER, CANCELLATION OF THIS  
23 CONTRACT MAY NOT REINSTATE YOUR ELIGIBILITY.

24  
25 (4) An agent contract that does not conform to this  
26 section is voidable by the student athlete. If a student  
27 athlete voids an agent contract, the student athlete is not  
28 required to pay any consideration or return any consideration  
29 received from the athlete agent to induce the student athlete  
30 to enter into the contract.

31 (5) The athlete agent shall give a record of the

1 signed or authenticated agent contract to the student athlete  
2 at the time of execution.

3 (6) Within 72 hours after entering into an agent  
4 contract or before the next scheduled athletic event in which  
5 the student athlete may participate, whichever occurs first,  
6 the athlete agent must give notice in a record of the  
7 existence of the contract to the athletic director of the  
8 educational institution at which the student athlete is  
9 enrolled or the athlete agent has reasonable grounds to  
10 believe the student athlete intends to enroll.

11 (7) Within 72 hours after entering into an agent  
12 contract or before the next athletic event in which the  
13 student athlete may participate, whichever occurs first, the  
14 student athlete must inform the athletic director of the  
15 educational institution at which the student athlete is  
16 enrolled that he or she has entered into an agent contract.

17 (8) A student athlete may cancel an agent contract by  
18 giving notice of the cancellation to the athlete agent in a  
19 record within 14 days after the contract is signed.

20 (9) A student athlete may not waive the right to  
21 cancel an agent contract.

22 (10) If a student athlete cancels an agent contract,  
23 the student athlete is not required to pay any consideration  
24 or return any consideration received from the athlete agent to  
25 induce the student athlete to enter into the contract.

26 ~~(1) An athlete agent and a student athlete who enter~~  
27 ~~into an agent contract must provide written notice of the~~  
28 ~~contract to the athletic director or the president of the~~  
29 ~~college or university in which the student athlete is~~  
30 ~~enrolled. The athlete agent and the student must give the~~  
31 ~~notice before the contracting student athlete practices or~~

1 ~~participates in any intercollegiate athletic event or within~~  
2 ~~72 hours after entering into said contract, whichever comes~~  
3 ~~first. Failure of the athlete agent to provide this~~  
4 ~~notification is a felony of the third degree, punishable as~~  
5 ~~provided in ss. 775.082, 775.083, 775.084, 775.089, and~~  
6 ~~775.091.~~

7 ~~(2) A written contract between a student athlete and~~  
8 ~~an athlete agent must state the fees and percentages to be~~  
9 ~~paid by the student athlete to the agent and must have a~~  
10 ~~notice printed near the student athlete's signature containing~~  
11 ~~the following statement in 10-point boldfaced type:~~

12 ~~"WARNING TO THE STUDENT ATHLETE: WHEN YOU SIGN THIS~~  
13 ~~CONTRACT, YOU WILL LIKELY IMMEDIATELY LOSE YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO~~  
14 ~~COMPETE IN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS. TO AVOID CRIMINAL~~  
15 ~~PROSECUTION YOU MUST GIVE WRITTEN NOTICE THAT YOU HAVE ENTERED~~  
16 ~~INTO THIS CONTRACT TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OR PRESIDENT OF~~  
17 ~~YOUR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WITHIN 72 HOURS AFTER ENTERING INTO~~  
18 ~~THIS CONTRACT OR PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING IN INTERCOLLEGIATE~~  
19 ~~ATHLETICS, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THIS~~  
20 ~~NOTICE IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE. DO NOT SIGN THIS CONTRACT UNTIL~~  
21 ~~YOU HAVE READ IT AND FILLED IN ANY BLANK SPACES. YOU MAY~~  
22 ~~CANCEL THIS CONTRACT BY NOTIFYING THE ATHLETE AGENT IN WRITING~~  
23 ~~OF YOUR DESIRE TO CANCEL NOT LATER THAN THE 15TH DAY AFTER THE~~  
24 ~~DATE YOU SIGN THIS CONTRACT. HOWEVER, EVEN IF YOU CANCEL THIS~~  
25 ~~CONTRACT, THE INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OR~~  
26 ~~CONFERENCE TO WHICH YOUR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY BELONGS MAY NOT~~  
27 ~~RESTORE YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERCOLLEGIATE~~  
28 ~~ATHLETICS."~~

29 ~~(3) An agent contract which does not meet the~~  
30 ~~requirements of this section is void and unenforceable.~~

31 ~~(4) Within 15 days after the date the athletic~~

1 ~~director or president of the college or university of the~~  
 2 ~~student athlete receives the notice required by this section~~  
 3 ~~that a student athlete has entered into an athlete agent~~  
 4 ~~contract, the student athlete shall have the right to rescind~~  
 5 ~~the contract with the athlete agent by giving written notice~~  
 6 ~~to the athlete agent of the student athlete's rescission of~~  
 7 ~~the contract. The student athlete may not under any~~  
 8 ~~circumstances waive the student athlete's right to rescind the~~  
 9 ~~agent contract.~~

10 ~~(5) A postdated agent contract is void and~~  
 11 ~~unenforceable.~~

12 (11)~~(6)~~ An athlete agent shall not enter into an agent  
 13 contract that purports to or takes effect at a future time  
 14 after the student athlete no longer has remaining eligibility  
 15 to participate in intercollegiate athletics. Such a contract  
 16 is void and unenforceable.

17 (12)~~(7)~~ An agent contract between a student athlete  
 18 and a person not licensed under this part is void and  
 19 unenforceable.

20 Section 105. Effective July 1, 2001, subsection (3) of  
 21 section 468.456, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

22 468.456 Prohibited acts.--

23 (3) When the department finds any person guilty of any  
 24 of the prohibited acts set forth in subsection (1), the  
 25 department may enter an order imposing one or more of the  
 26 penalties provided for in s. 455.227, and an administrative  
 27 fine not to exceed \$25,000 for each separate offense. In  
 28 addition to any other penalties or disciplinary actions  
 29 provided for in this part, the department shall suspend or  
 30 revoke the license of any athlete agent licensed under this  
 31 part who violates paragraph (1)(f) or paragraph (1)(o) or s.



1 468.45615.

2 Section 106. Effective July 1, 2001, subsection (4) is  
3 added to section 468.45615, Florida Statutes, to read:

4 468.45615 Provision of illegal inducements to athletes  
5 prohibited; penalties; license suspension.--

6 (4)(a) An athlete agent, with the intent to induce a  
7 student athlete to enter into an agent contract, may not:

8 1. Give any materially false or misleading information  
9 or make a materially false promise or representation;

10 2. Furnish anything of value to a student athlete  
11 before the student athlete enters into the agent contract; or

12 3. Furnish anything of value to any individual other  
13 than the student athlete or another athlete agent.

14 (b) An athlete agent may not intentionally:

15 1. Initiate contact with a student athlete unless  
16 licensed under this part;

17 2. Refuse or fail to retain or permit inspection of  
18 the records required to be retained by s. 468.4565;

19 3. Provide materially false or misleading information  
20 in an application for licensure;

21 4. Predate or postdate an agent contract;

22 5. Fail to give notice of the existence of an agent  
23 contract as required by s. 468.454(6); or

24 6. Fail to notify a student athlete before the student  
25 athlete signs or otherwise authenticates an agent contract for  
26 a sport that the signing or authentication may make the  
27 student athlete ineligible to participate as a student athlete  
28 in that sport.

29 (c) An athlete agent who violates this subsection  
30 commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided  
31 in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

1 Section 107. Effective July 1, 2001, section 468.4562,  
2 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 468.4562 Civil action by institution.--

4 (1) A college or university may sue for damages, as  
5 provided by this section, any person who violates this part.  
6 A college or university may seek equitable relief to prevent  
7 or minimize harm arising from acts or omissions which are or  
8 would be a violation of this part.

9 (2) For purposes of this section, a college or  
10 university is damaged if, because of activities of the person,  
11 the college or university is penalized, ~~or is disqualified,~~ or  
12 suspended from participation in intercollegiate athletics by a  
13 national association for the promotion and regulation of  
14 intercollegiate athletics, ~~or~~ by an intercollegiate athletic  
15 conference, or by reasonable self-imposed disciplinary action  
16 taken to mitigate sanctions likely to be imposed by such  
17 organization and, because of that penalty, disqualification,  
18 ~~or suspension,~~ or action, the institution:

- 19 (a) Loses revenue from media coverage of a sports
- 20 contest;
- 21 (b) Loses the right to grant an athletic scholarship;
- 22 (c) Loses the right to recruit an athlete;
- 23 (d) Is prohibited from participating in postseason
- 24 athletic competition;
- 25 (e) Forfeits an athletic contest; or
- 26 (f) Otherwise suffers an adverse financial impact.

27 (3) An institution that prevails in a suit brought  
28 under this section may recover:

- 29 (a) Actual damages;
- 30 (b) Punitive damages;
- 31 (c) Treble damages;

1           (d) Court costs; and

2           (e) Reasonable attorney's fees.

3           (4) A right of action under this section does not

4 accrue until the educational institution discovers, or by the

5 exercise of reasonable diligence would have discovered, the

6 violation by the athlete agent or former student athlete.

7           (5) Any liability of the athlete agent or the former

8 student athlete under this section is several and not joint.

9           (6) This part does not restrict rights, remedies, or

10 defenses of any person under law or equity.

11           Section 108. Effective July 1, 2001, subsection (1) of

12 section 468.4565, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13           468.4565 Business records requirement.--

14           (1) An athlete agent ~~who holds an active license and~~

15 ~~engages in business as an athlete agent~~ shall establish and

16 maintain complete financial and business records. The athlete

17 agent shall save each entry into a financial or business

18 record for at least 5 ~~4~~ years from the date of entry. These

19 records must include, but shall not be limited to:

20           (a) The name and address of each individual

21 represented by the athlete agent;

22           (b) Any agent contract entered into by the athlete

23 agent; and

24           (c) Any direct costs incurred by the athlete agent in

25 the recruitment or solicitation of a student athlete to enter

26 into an agent contract.

27           Section 109. An individual who has submitted an

28 application for, and holds a certificate of registration or

29 licensure as an athlete agent in another state, may submit a

30 copy of the application and certificate in lieu of submitting

31 an application in the form prescribed pursuant to chapter 468,

1 Florida Statutes. The Secretary of State shall accept the  
2 application and the certificate from the other state as an  
3 application for licensure in this state if the application to  
4 the other state:

5 (1) Was submitted in the other state within 6 months  
6 next preceding the submission of the application in this state  
7 and the applicant certifies that the information contained in  
8 the application is current;

9 (2) Contains information substantially similar to or  
10 more comprehensive than that required in an application  
11 submitted in this state; and

12 (3) Was signed by the applicant under penalty of  
13 perjury.

14 Section 110. Effective July 1, 2001, sections 468.4563  
15 and 468.4564, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

16  
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18 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

19 And the title is amended as follows:

20 On page 6, line 2,

21

22 after the semicolon insert:

23 amending s. 468.452, F.S.; revising a  
24 definition; amending s. 468.453, F.S.; revising  
25 licensure requirements for athlete agents;  
26 providing for service of process on nonresident  
27 agents; providing for temporary licenses;  
28 deleting a bond requirement; amending s.  
29 468.454, F.S.; revising contract requirements;  
30 providing for cancellation of contracts;  
31 amending s. 468.456, F.S.; providing for

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1           increased administrative fines; amending s.  
2           468.45615, F.S.; providing additional criminal  
3           penalties for certain acts; amending s.  
4           468.4562, F.S.; revising provisions relating to  
5           civil remedies available to colleges and  
6           universities for violations of athlete agent  
7           regulations; amending s. 468.4565, F.S.;  
8           revising business record requirements;  
9           repealing s. 468.4563, F.S., relating to  
10          authority to require continuing education by  
11          athlete agents; providing for reciprocity;  
12          repealing s. 468.4564, F.S., relating to  
13          license display requirements;

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