

## 117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2504

To provide to localities injured by the cancellation or relocation, without good cause, of a scheduled organized professional major league team competition by a league of organized professional major league baseball teams, or a member of such league.

# IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 14, 2021

Mr. Carter of Georgia (for himself, Mr. Hice of Georgia, and Mr. Duncan) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

# A BILL

To provide to localities injured by the cancellation or relocation, without good cause, of a scheduled organized professional major league team competition by a league of organized professional major league baseball teams, or a member of such league.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Community Protection
- 5 in Sports Act of 2021".

#### 1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

- 2 The Congress finds the following:
- 3 (1) Events put on by organized professional
- 4 major league baseball leagues outside of the regular
- 5 season of competition provide unique economic bene-
- 6 fits to local economies.
- 7 (2) Localities must spend money in preparation
- 8 for special events that bring in thousands of visitors
- 9 from across the country and the world.
- 10 (3) The cancellation or relocation of such events
- 11 without good cause results in a significant loss of
- revenue for local businesses that would have other-
- wise benefited from hosting an event.

#### 14 SEC. 3. UNLAWFUL CONDUCT.

- 15 It shall be unlawful for a league of organized profes-
- 16 sional major league baseball teams, or a member of such
- 17 league, to cancel or relocate a team competition composed
- 18 of 2 or more organized professional major league baseball
- 19 teams if such competition is not part of the regular season
- 20 competition schedule of such league and if the cancellation
- 21 or relocations of such competition is not a reasonable re-
- 22 sponse to—
- 23 (1) a pandemic,
- 24 (2) a natural disaster,
- 25 (3) inclement weather, or

1 (4) an emergency declared by the Federal Gov-2 ernment or by the State in which such competition 3 is scheduled to occur before the applicable cancella-4 tion or relocation.

### 5 SEC. 4. PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION; CIVIL ACTION.

- 6 (a) Liability.—A league of organized professional
- 7 major league baseball teams, a member of such league,
- 8 or both that cancel or relocate a team competition in viola-
- 9 tion of section 3 shall be liable to the locality injured by
- 10 such violation.
- 11 (b) CIVIL ACTION.—A locality that is injured by a
- 12 violation of section 3 may commence a civil action for
- 13 damages in an appropriate district court of the United
- 14 States, or in a State court of competent jurisdiction, with-
- 15 in 4 years after the cause of action accrues.

#### 16 SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

- 17 For purposes of this Act:
- 18 (1) Locality.—The term "locality" means a
- 19 county, parish, city, town, township, village, or other
- 20 general purpose political subdivision of a State with
- 21 the power to levy taxes and to expend Federal,
- State, and local funds and exercise governmental
- powers.
- 24 (2) STATE.—The term "State" means a State,
- 25 the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of

- 1 Puerto Rico, and any other territory or possession of
- the United States.
- 3 SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.
- 4 This Act shall take effect January 1, 2021.

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