

WISCONSIN STATE  
LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
RECORDS

**2003-04**

(session year)

**Assembly**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on  
Colleges and  
Universities  
(AC-CU)**

(Form Updated: 11/20/2008)

**COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

➤ Committee Reports ... CR  
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➤ Executive Sessions ... ES  
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➤ Public Hearings ... PH  
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**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE  
FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL ...**

➤ Appointments ... Appt  
\*\*

Name:

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule  
\*\*

➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

\*\* **03hr\_ab0403\_AC-CU\_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc  
\*\*

**MARQUETTE  
UNIVERSITY**

*Department of Intercollegiate  
Athletics and Recreational Sports*

1212 Bld., Suite 213  
P.O. Box 1881  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881  
414-288-7127  
Fax: 414-288-7341  
[www.gomarquette.com](http://www.gomarquette.com)

October 3, 2003

The Honorable Robin G. Kreibich  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Kreibich:

I am writing to you regarding 2003 Assembly Bill 403 which will be having a hearing in your Committee on Colleges and Universities on October 7<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of Marquette University, I am pleased to extend our support for Assembly Bill 403. We are grateful to Representative Wieckert and Senator Kanavas for introducing this legislation.

As you probably already know, Marquette University has a long history of participation in college athletics, including our successful and nationally recognized Men's and Women's basketball, Men's and Women's soccer, Men's golf, and Women's volleyball teams. Assembly Bill 403 is good, pro-active legislation. It allows students to concentrate on their higher education as well as their participation in athletics by protecting them from sports agents who may place less importance on their studies versus signing a contract that will provide the agent with a large commission check.

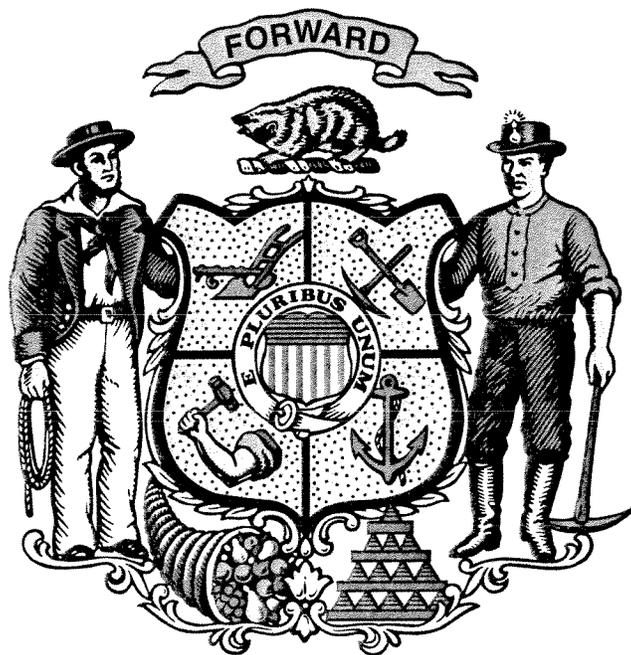
As you know, this legislation would regulate athlete agents who represent student athletes by enacting the Uniform Athlete Agents Act, which was approved in 2000 by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. We believe this bill creates reasonable registration and agency contract requirements on athlete agents.

On behalf of Marquette University, thank you for allowing me to express our support of the regulation of athletic agents.

Sincerely,

William Cords  
Director, Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreational Sports

cc: Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities



**Jim Doyle**  
Governor

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
REGULATION & LICENSING**

1400 E Washington Ave  
PO Box 8935  
Madison WI 53708-8935  
Email: [web@drl.state.wi.us](mailto:web@drl.state.wi.us)  
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**Donsia Strong Hill**  
Secretary



**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

**Representative Rob Kreibich, Chair**

**Statement of William Anderson Black, Department of Regulation and Licensing**

**2003 Assembly Bill 403  
relating to regulating athlete agents**

**225 Northwest, Capitol  
Tuesday, October 7, 2003 10:00 A. M.**

**For information only**

Chairperson Kreibich and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear on behalf of the Department of Regulation and Licensing to comment on Assembly Bill 403.

Recruitment of student athletes for professional sports is extremely competitive. This competition sometimes involves unscrupulous practices by athlete agents, leading student athletes to sign agent contracts without being fully aware of the consequences. An athlete who retains an agent while enrolled in an educational institution may lose eligibility to compete as a student athlete. The school's athletic program may also be penalized, especially if the school is not aware of the contract and the student continues to compete as a student athlete.

Assembly Bill 403 is based on the Uniform Athlete Agents Act drafted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. One stated purpose of the bill is to protect the student athlete and the school by requiring athlete agents to inform students of the potential consequences of signing a contract for representation, giving notice to the educational institution and regulating the practices of the athlete agents through registration requirements.

Despite this stated purpose of protecting student athletes the Bill places explicit potential liability on the student athlete for the failure to provide timely notice to an educational institution that an agent contract has been signed. Additionally, the Bill does not account for the fact that the student athlete may commit this type of violation and incur liability based upon the wrong counsel of an agent.

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

**Statement of the Department of Regulation and Licensing on 2003 AB 403**

**Page 2**

Typically, a class of protected persons is created for the purpose of protection from the unwarranted acts of other regulated persons and not for the purpose of imposing additional liability on the protected class. The effects of this Bill should be carefully considered because it creates this potential civil liability for the student athlete which could result from a mistake by the student athlete or the wrong advice by an agent.

The age, economic status, life experience and educational background of student athletes when balanced against the qualifications of professional registered athlete agents, should result in the focus of liability being placed solely on the athlete agents. It is athlete agents, who while collecting a fee, act as fiduciaries for the less experienced student athlete.

Additionally, the fee structure to implement the Bill sets fees at a level too low to reflect the actual costs to the department for implementation.

The Department of Regulation and Licensing is not in favor of Assembly Bill 403 because of its actual and potential effects upon student athletes, and a fee structure which results in underfunding for implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today.

## **AB 403 REGULATION OF ATHLETE AGENTS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES**

### **I. Introduction**

The proposed legislation was drafted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. (Uniform Athlete Agents Act 2000, the "Act") The preamble to the Act details problems with the athlete/athlete agent relationship to be addressed. Most significant are: 1) A minority of agents engage in secret payments or gifts to athletes, undisclosed payments or gifts to friends and relatives, unrealistic promises and "considerable" arm-twisting; 2) 28 states have enacted legislation regulating athlete agents. The statutes differ greatly. Two thirds of the statutes impose registration requirements.

As a result, the Act is designed for uniformity and to allow reciprocity. The NCAA requested the Act be drafted.

### **II. Effect on Existing State Law.**

Currently, Wisconsin does not regulate athlete agents.

The Act defines an "Athlete agent" as an individual who enters into an agency contract with a student athlete or recruits or solicits to enter or represents to the public that the individual is an athlete agent. The definition excludes spouses, certain family members, or individuals acting solely on behalf of a professional sports team or professional sports organization. Also excluded is an individual who provides information to a student athlete, but does not recruit or solicit the student athlete to enter into an agency contract.

An agent cannot act as an athlete agent without being registered, except that an individual may act as an athlete agent in Wisconsin for all purposes except signing an agency contract if:

(a) the student athlete or person on behalf of the athlete initiates communication with the individual, AND;

(b) within 7 days after an "initial act" as an agent such as an effort to recruit or solicit a student athlete to enter into an agency contract, the individual applies for registration as an agent in this state.

An agency contract resulting from conduct in violation of the registration requirements is void and the athlete agent must return any consideration received under the contract.

Certain disclosures must be made in the application for registration, such as the applicant's training as an agent, practical experience, educational background, references, employer information, judicial determinations against the applicant regarding any misrepresentations and any disciplinary actions or sanctions arising out of professional conduct. The agency administering the Act may refuse to

issue a registration if it determines the applicant has “engaged in conduct that has a significant adverse effect on the applicant’s fitness to act as an athlete agent.”

The Act specifies terms that must be in a contract with a student athlete which include: 1) the amount and method of calculating consideration, 2) a description of expenses that the athlete will reimburse, and 3) a description of the services to be provided.

The contract must also contain the warning of a student’s rights and duties in “close proximity” to the signature of the student athlete. These include: 1) the student may lose eligibility by signing the contract, 2) if the student has an athletic director, within 72 hours after entering into the contract, both the student and the agent must notify that athletic director, 3) the student athlete has a 14 day cancellation right after signing, 4) Cancellation may not reinstate eligibility.

The Act requires that the athletic director of the educational institution at which the student is enrolled be notified by the agent **and** the student within 72 hours of the signing of the contract or before the next scheduled athletic event in which the student athlete may participate, whichever occurs first. The agent must also provide notice to the athletic director of an educational institution which the agent has reasonable grounds to believe the student athlete intends to enroll.

The Act prohibits specific agent practices which create criminal and civil liability. These include: 1) No inducements to enter an agency contract by materially false or misleading information, promises or representations; 2) Furnishing anything of value by the agent to the student athlete before the student athlete enters into the agency contract; 3) Furnishing anything of value to any individual other than the student athlete or another registered athlete agent; 4) Initiating contact with a student athlete unless registered; 5) Refusing or failing to retain or permit inspection of the records required by the Act; 6) Failing to register as required by the Act; 7) Providing materially false or misleading information in an application for registration or renewal; 8) Predating or postdating an agency contract; 9) Failing to notify a student athlete before the student athlete signs or otherwise authenticates an agency contract for a particular sport that the signing or authentication may make the student athlete ineligible to participate as a student athlete in that sport.

The criminal penalties that can apply to agents are a \$10,000 fine per violation or 9 months imprisonment or both.

The civil remedies provided are in favor of educational institutions only. The agent or student athlete (several not joint) are liable for damages caused by a violation of the Act. In addition to an award of monetary damages, costs and attorneys fees may be recovered.

Damages are defined to include losses and expenses incurred for an “injury” or when the educational institution is penalized, disqualified or suspended from participation in athletics by a national association or by an athletic conference. An additional means of creating damages is by, “reasonable self-imposed

disciplinary action taken to mitigate sanctions likely to be imposed by such an organization.”

An administrative forfeiture of not more than \$25,000 applies per violation against an agent who violates the Act.

### III. Legislative Action in Previous Session

The Act has previously been drafted in the 2001-2002 session of the legislature as LRB 3241/4 but was not introduced.

### IV. Policy Significance

Jurisdiction is an unsettled issue. It is not clear how the Act applies to a student athlete or agent where a student athlete returns to an out of state residence from a Wisconsin institution, and while out of state signs an agency contract. The Act provides that an individual cannot act as an athlete agent, “in this state” without being registered. It may be that a student athlete and/or an athlete agent could avoid the Act, (and a student athlete may wish too), merely by executing a contract in an alternate jurisdiction.

There are two types of contracts under the Act, void and voidable. Never addressed by the Act is whether a void contract restores eligibility or insulates a student athlete from civil damages for a notice violation. The void contract appears to be void from its inception and is caused by an agent’s violation of the registration requirements of the Act. The voidable contract results from a contract that does not contain the required statutory warning. The voidable contract is voidable at the student athlete’s option.

The Act lacks clear guidance pertaining to regaining eligibility in the instance of a void or voidable contract. It is also silent regarding a student athlete’s civil liability to the educational institution in such instance. (Assuming a notice violation by the student athlete.) It is not clear whether a void or voidable contract has ramifications for eligibility with the NCAA or other groups. If one goal of the Act is to protect student athletes from agent abuses, the Act should be clarified regarding this important issue of the loss and regaining of eligibility and the liability for civil damages.

In the instance of an otherwise valid (or unvoided) contract, the student athlete is granted a cancellation right of 14 days. However, no express safe harbor to reinstate eligibility exists. This may render the right illusory. It is unknown why 14 days was chosen and whether this in some manner impacts eligibility. As in the instance of a void contract or voidable contract, the Act doesn’t provide the type of information that the student athlete needs regarding the loss of eligibility and does not reference the applicable third party eligibility standards that apply. Such standards may also change based on the sole discretion of the third party, thus creating a result that the legislature did not intend. Also it appears that canceling the contract may have no effect on the student athlete’s civil liability to

the educational institution if a notice violation occurred prior to canceling. The Act is silent in this instance. Finally, the manner to exercise the cancellation right is not as explicit as with other consumer protection statutes and should be modified.

Placing statutory penalties on the student athlete can be ill advised when there are no clear means for a student to determine the loss or regaining of eligibility, especially if such loss occurs after being advised, counseled or "misrepresented" to by the agent. Loss of eligibility with concurrent civil liability which is tied to unstated third party standards, such as the NCAA, may not represent the type of student athlete protection the legislature intended as a matter of public policy.

As an example of further lack of guidance, a student must notify his/her athletic director within 72 hours of the signing of the contract and may be civilly liable for the failure to do so. However, the means to give proper notice is not set forth. Additionally, the 72 hour warning notice in the contract fails to inform the student athlete that the statute actually requires more, a 72 hour notice **or before** the next sports event, whichever occurs first. The statute thus becomes a trap for the student even where he/she follows the notice requirement to the letter.

Also, the Act creates an anomaly given that the student athlete could use no agent or use an excluded person under the Act's definitions or sign directly with a professional team and not fall under the Act at all, thereby avoiding statutory liability for actions otherwise in violation of the Act. Therefore, the Act (perhaps unintentionally) creates two classes of student athletes; one which faces penalties, and one which does not; resulting from the very same action. The Act would be improved by removing this disparity in treatment, and instead concentrate on regulating athlete agents solely. While ostensibly having the purpose to regulate agents, the add-on attempt to regulate student conduct appears inconsistent.

The requirement of additional notice by the agent to an "intended institution" under section 440.9945(1) also raises fairness issues to the agent, by requiring a duty of notice to an undefined institution based on "reasonable belief" a student may attend. Not used is the more specific act, such as a signed letter of intent, as a triggering event instead. As a result, an educational institution with no actual contractual right to a student athlete (at the time agency contract is signed) obtains rights to sue under the Act.

#### V. Administrative Significance

No funding has been provided in the Act for the Agency tasked with implementation. If the Department of Regulation and licensing implements the Act it may need minor staffing increases to process initial credential applications and renewals, screening, investigation and prosecution of complaints. Rule drafting will also be needed. Additionally, there will be printing costs for application forms, statute and rule books and credential certificates.

VI. Fiscal Effect

VII. Laws in Other States

The Act is adopted currently in 15 states. The Act is currently pending in 17 states.

VIII. Summary and Recommendation

The Act should be refocused to solely regulate athlete agents and not attempt to graft on student athlete regulation.

Consideration should be given to strengthening the protection for student athletes granted in the act by mandating automatic reinstatement of eligibility in the instance of:

1. a void contract
2. a voidable contract, where voided by the student athlete
3. a valid contract which is cancelled by the student athlete within the statutory timeframe.

The manner of cancellation should be clarified.

The legal protection for “intended institutions” should be removed.

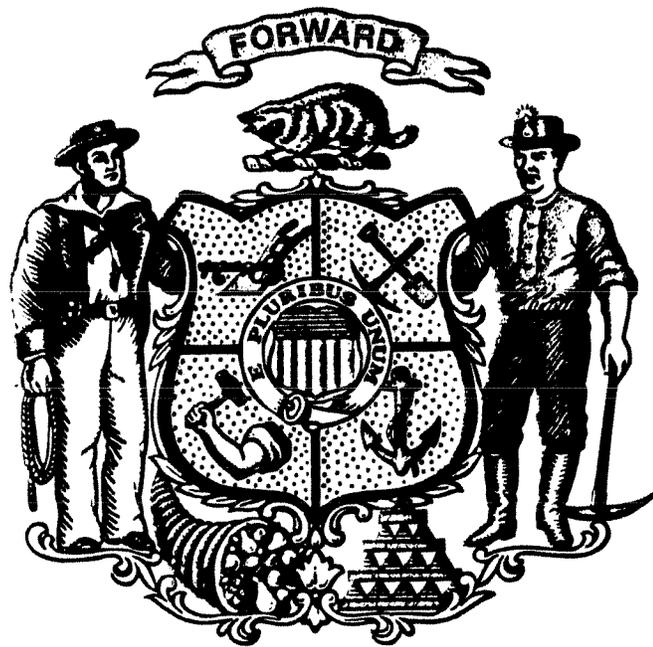
The exclusion from the requirement for registration as an agent for individuals acting solely on behalf of a professional sports team or professional sports organization should be removed. The loss of eligibility and economic damages may be caused by such individuals in the same manner as independent agents currently effected by the Act, however, no clear rationale is presented for the disparity in treatment.

IX. For additional information contact

Office of Legal Counsel

Department of Regulation and Licensing

608-267-1803



**Jim Doyle**  
Governor

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
REGULATION & LICENSING**

1400 E Washington Ave  
PO Box 8935  
Madison WI 53708-8935

**Donsia Strong Hill**  
Secretary

Email: [web@drl.state.wi.us](mailto:web@drl.state.wi.us)  
Voice: 608-266-2112  
FAX: 608-267-0644  
TTY: 608-267-2416



December 10, 2003

Representative Steve Wieckert  
Room 16 West  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Wieckert,

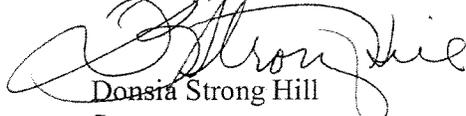
Recruitment of student athlete agents for professional sports is extremely competitive. Such competition sometimes involves unscrupulous practices by athlete agents, leading student athletes to sign agent contracts without being fully aware of the consequences. An athlete who retains an agent while enrolled in an educational institution may lose eligibility to compete as a student athlete. The athletic program of the school may also be penalized, especially if the school is not aware of the contract and the student continues to compete as a student athlete.

Assembly Bill 403 is based on the Uniform Athlete Agent Act. One stated purpose of the bill is to protect the student athlete. The Department of Regulation and Licensing believes Assembly Bill 403 with Amendment 1 accomplishes that very important goal. Accordingly, the Department of Regulation and Licensing supports Assembly Bill 403 as amended.

Without Amendment 1, the effect of this bill would make it unsupportable because the bill creates a potential civil liability for the student athlete arising out of the wrongful act of the agent. I also appreciate your responsiveness in addressing the proposed fee and the methods the amendment establishes for allowing the Department to set an appropriate fee that would maintain your commitment to making this bill cost neutral to the Department and/or the other professions housed in the Department.

I thank you for your efforts on this bill. We appreciate your commitment to protecting the student athletes of Wisconsin and ensuring the safe and competent practice of licensed professionals.

Sincerely,

  
Donsia Strong Hill  
Secretary



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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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*Terry C. Anderson, Director*  
*Laura D. Rose, Deputy Director*

TO: REPRESENTATIVE STEVE WIECKERT

FROM: Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorney *RW*

RE: Assembly Amendment \_\_ (LRBa1518/1) to 2003 Assembly Bill 403, Relating to Athlete Agents

DATE: October 27, 2003

This memorandum summarizes Assembly Amendment \_\_ (LRBa1518/1) to 2003 Assembly Bill 403, relating to athlete agents.

Assembly Amendment \_\_ makes three changes to the legislation as originally introduced, as follows:

1. Under the original bill, an educational institution was authorized to bring a civil action against an athlete agent *or a former student athlete* for damages caused by a violation of the bill. This amendment *eliminates* the civil liability of student athletes from the bill. Thus, former student athletes would not be subject to the civil remedy set forth in the bill although they would still be required to provide notice of the fact that they have signed a contract with an athlete agent.

2. Assembly Amendment \_\_ allows the Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL) to establish fees to process the applications of athlete agents and to issue certificates. Specifically, the amendment replaces the \$53 proposed fee with an amount specified in administrative rules to be promulgated by the DRL. Similarly, the amendment requires an application for registration to be accompanied by a processing fee that is in an amount established in the rules promulgated by the department. Further, after the first renewal of a certificate, the DRL is authorized to prorate the fee charged based on the length of time between issuance and renewal.

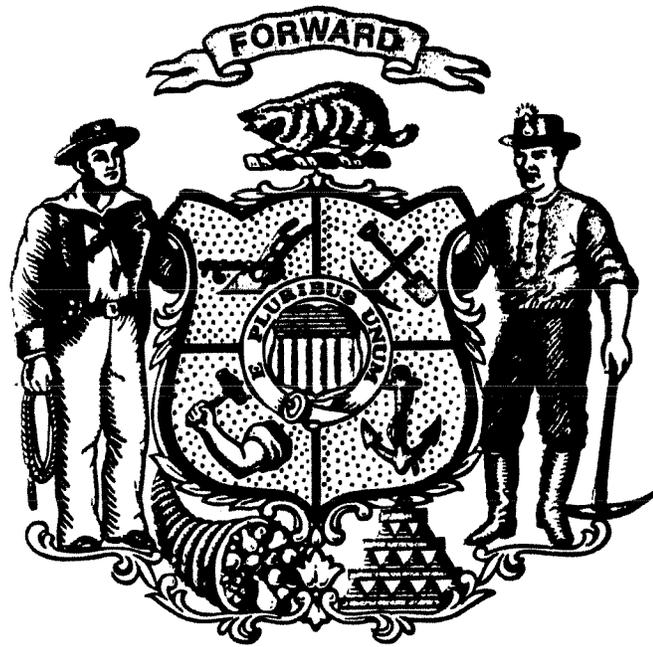
The amendment requires that the amount established in the rules must be based on the department's administrative and enforcement costs attributable to processing applications regulating athlete agents. Finally, the amendment authorizes the department to adopt emergency rules without having to meet the requirement that the rules are necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or welfare.

3. The amendment modifies the notice that a student athlete must receive upon signing of a contract. Specifically, the notice requirement is amended to insert the underscored language in the following clause of the notice: “IF YOU HAVE AN ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, WITHIN 72 HOURS AFTER ENTERING INTO THIS CONTRACT OR BEFORE THE NEXT SCHEDULED ATHLETIC EVENT IN WHICH YOU MAY PARTICIPATE, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST, BOTH YOU AND YOUR ATHLETE AGENT MUST NOTIFY YOUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR....”

This amendment brings the notice into compliance with the statutory requirement for reporting information to the appropriate athletic director.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or the specific aspects of the amendment, please feel free to contact me directly at the Legislative Council staff offices.

RW:wu:rv;wu



Jim Doyle  
Governor

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
REGULATION & LICENSING**

1400 E Washington Ave  
PO Box 8935  
Madison WI 53708-8935  
Email: [web@drl.state.wi.us](mailto:web@drl.state.wi.us)  
Voice: 608-266-2112  
FAX: 608-267-0644  
TTY: 608-267-2416

**Donsia Strong Hill**  
Secretary



December 10, 2003

Representative Steve Wieckert  
Room 16 West  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Wieckert,

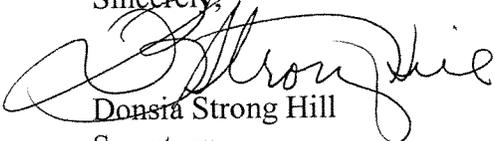
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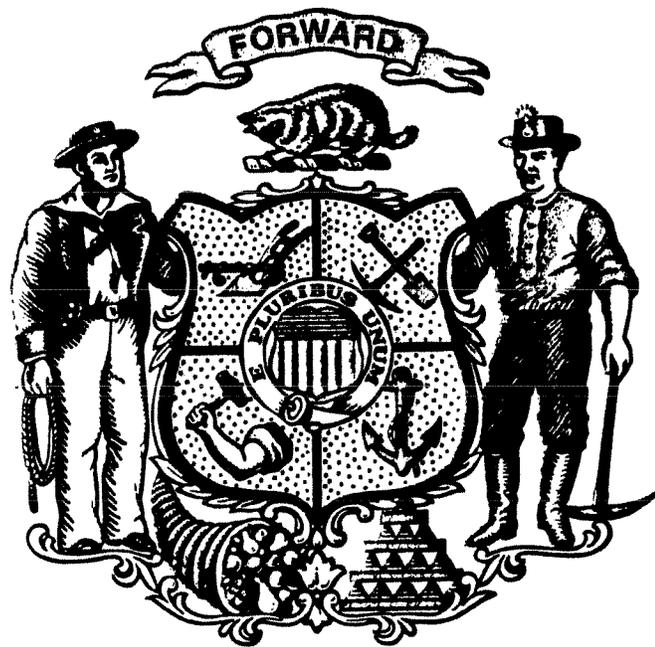
Assembly Bill 403 is based on the Uniform Athlete Agent Act. One stated purpose of the bill is to protect the student athlete. The Department of Regulation and Licensing believes Assembly Bill 403 with Amendment 1 accomplishes that very important goal. Accordingly, the Department of Regulation and Licensing supports Assembly Bill 403 as amended.

Without Amendment 1, the effect of this bill would make it unsupportable because the bill creates a potential civil liability for the student athlete arising out of the wrongful act of the agent. I also appreciate your responsiveness in addressing the proposed fee and the methods the amendment establishes for allowing the Department to set an appropriate fee that would maintain your commitment to making this bill cost neutral to the Department and/or the other professions housed in the Department.

I thank you for your efforts on this bill. We appreciate your commitment to protecting the student athletes of Wisconsin and ensuring the safe and competent practice of licensed professionals.

Sincerely,

  
Donsia Strong Hill  
Secretary





# WISCONSIN ATHLETICS

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Division of Intercollegiate Athletics  
1440 Monroe Street  
Madison, WI 53711-2080

**Pat Richter**  
Director of Athletics  
(608) 262-1866

February 20, 2004

The Honorable Rob Kreibich  
The Wisconsin State Assembly  
107 West, State Capitol  
PO Box 8952  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Kreibich:

I am writing to thank you for your support of the Athlete Agent Bill (Senate Bill 209/Assembly Bill 403). As you know, the UW-Madison Athletic Department strongly supports this legislation. The Athlete Agent Bill, which requires sports agents to register with the Department of Regulation and Licensing, will be an important step in curbing the abuses of sports agents in college athletics. Currently sports agents who refuse to respect the integrity of the system are a real problem that colleges have to deal with concerning their elite athletes. Education of student-athletes helps alleviate this problem, but this legislation also provides a major deterrent to the unscrupulous agents who prey on the unsuspecting athlete.

I hope you will encourage your colleagues to take up and pass the Athlete Agent Bill this session. This legislation has been taken up in several consecutive sessions and always enjoyed strong bipartisan support. On behalf of our student-athletes, I hope the bill can finally become law this year.

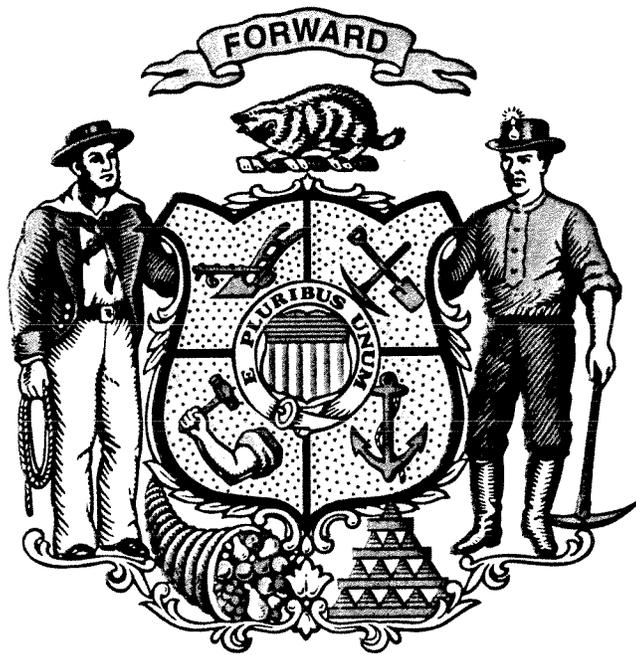
If you have any questions about this bill and its impact on UW-Madison and our student-athletes, please contact Kristi Thorson, Assistant Director of State Relations at 262-4809.

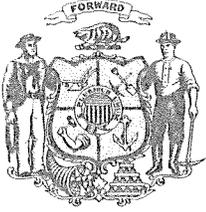
Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Pat Richter  
Director of Athletics  
University of Wisconsin – Madison

CC: Rep. Steve Wieckert  
Kristi Thorson





# TED KANAVAS

## STATE SENATOR

Chairperson Kreibich and members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities,

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today on Assembly Bill 403(AB 403), which will put in place measures by which the state of Wisconsin can regulate athlete agents.

AB 403, which is the Uniform Athlete Agent Act that was passed in 2000 by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, will help protect both the student athlete and the colleges and universities in this state.

This bill will require athlete agents to register with the state of Wisconsin, more specifically the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing. And, while registering, they must provide the state with their education, training, experience, and business partners. Furthermore, the bill also requires that all contracts between student-athlete and athlete agent are clear in the basic understanding that signing an agent contract will equate to a loss of eligibility.

Many states have already enacted this type of legislation, and I believe that Wisconsin should also join the ranks. In passing AB 403, Wisconsin will enter into reciprocal agreements in other states so that it is both cost-effective and efficient for the athlete agent.

But, this bill is not intended to just help athlete agents. Instead, it is focused at assisting student athletes and colleges and universities so that both the student and school are not penalized for misleading actions by athlete agents.

AB 403 will protect a student-athlete from being taken advantage by an athlete agent who may fill the athlete full of false information in the hope that the student-athlete will sign with them. And, it will protect the student-athlete from entering into a contract that eliminate their eligibility and the potential harm that the loss of eligibility could have on their respective school. In a day and age when post-season play can provide millions of dollars to colleges and universities, this could place a serious blow to athletic budgets for the school in question.

In our current sports environment, student-athletes are leaving school early to enter into the professional ranks for lucrative contracts, the student-athletes are becoming more vulnerable to the actions of athlete agents who may lack professional integrity. With this requirement to register with the state, student-athletes will be given an outlet to research who they want to be their agent. And good information will create smart decisions.

STATE CAPITOL

P.O. BOX 7882 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707-7882  
(608) 266-9174 • (800) 863-8883 • FAX: (608) 264-6914

I do not want to see a student-athlete losing eligibility, a college or university losing millions of dollars or forfeiting games, and even losing scholarships for future recruiting classes. These incidents do not only affect the Division 1-A programs like the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Wisconsin –Milwaukee, Marquette University, or University of Green Bay; but also our Division III state schools and high schools. There are a growing number of students in our state university conference that are entering the professional ranks. For example, the UW-Whitewater, UW-Stout, UW-La Crosse, and UW-Stevens Point have a former student-athlete in the NFL. And, it may not be long before some Wisconsin high school basketball player will forgo college and enter the NBA draft and be the next LeBron James.

This is a common sense bill, and it has support of the NCAA, the WIAA, UW-Madison, Marquette University, UW-Milwaukee, WIAC, National Junior College Athletic Association, Big 10 Conference, Conference USA, and UW-Green Bay.

Please vote in favor of AB 403. Thank you for your consideration.