

# Ohio House unanimously votes to limit NIL contracts for college athletes

By Anna Staver  
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COLUMBUS, Ohio -- College athletes could soon be shielded from long-term name, image and likeness (NIL) deals under a bill that passed the Ohio House Wednesday in a rare unanimous vote.

The House voted 90-0 on [House Bill 184](#). It would prohibit NIL contracts from extending beyond a student's time in college -- a move supporters say is necessary to prevent companies from locking young athletes into unfair agreements.

"Recently, we've seen exploitative NIL contracts where players sign away large percentages of their professional earnings (upwards of 20%) in exchange for relatively small sums in college," NFL Players Association attorney Andrew Morris testified. "We also see contracts that hold an athlete's NIL rights in perpetuity."

Some of these deals are signed by high school or college athletes who are still minors, Morris said, who may not fully grasp that they're permanently signing away their rights of publicity.

State Rep. Brian Stewart, a Circleville Republican who sponsored HB 184, called it "common sense consumer protections."

"This important protection guarantees that athletes retain their future rights to their NIL and are not compelled to relinquish compensation or other rights after their collegiate careers end," Stewart said.

The bill now goes to the Ohio Senate for deliberations. Both chambers must pass the bill to send it to Gov. Mike DeWine for his signature.