

S 1721

FANS Act

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Sports and Recreation

Introduced: Nov 18, 2013

Current Status: Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-847.

Latest Action: Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-847. (Dec 4, 2014)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/1721

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

Party: Democratic • State: CT • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Nov 18, 2013

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Dec 4, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Sports and Recreation

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 3452	Identical bill	Jan 9, 2014: Referred to the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial And Antitrust Law.

Furthering Access and Networks for Sports Act or the FANS Act - Amends the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 to deny the antitrust exemption for joint agreements covering the telecasting of sports contests to any league of clubs participating in professional football, baseball, basketball, or hockey contests that does not: (1) expressly prohibit sponsored telecast licensees of such league, and any agreement with any video licensee, from intentionally removing the live content of such league from a multichannel video programming distributor when such removal occurs during, or is related to a negotiation regarding, carriage of the league's games by such distributor; or (2) make a sponsored telecast of a game that is played in the home territory of a member club available to consumers, using an Internet platform, in any territory in which the game is not available for private viewing through a local television broadcast station or any available multichannel video programming distributor. Repeals the exception that allows the antitrust exemption for such a joint agreement that prohibits televising games within the home territory of a member club on a day when such club is playing at home.

Amends the Clayton Act to: (1) subject the conduct, acts, practices, or agreements of persons in the business of organized professional major league baseball (currently, only such conduct, acts, practices, or agreements directly relating to or affecting employment of major league baseball players at the major league level) to the antitrust laws to the same extent that such conduct, acts, practices, or agreements engaged in by persons in any other professional sports business affecting interstate commerce are subject to such laws; and (2) repeal provisions granting only a major league baseball player standing to sue. Eliminates provisions specifying that such Act does not create, permit, or imply a cause of action by which to challenge under the antitrust laws: (1) the relationship between the Office of the Commissioner and franchise owners, the marketing or sales of the entertainment product of organized professional baseball, and the licensing of intellectual property rights owned or held by organized professional baseball teams; or (2) any conduct, acts, practices, or agreements protected by the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Dec 4, 2014:** Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-847.
- **Nov 18, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 18, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.