

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4071

To require a professional baseball club to compensate its home community if such club relocates its home field more than 25 miles from its previous location.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2023

Ms. LEE of California (for herself and Mr. DESAULNIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require a professional baseball club to compensate its home community if such club relocates its home field more than 25 miles from its previous location.

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 “Moneyball Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that the unique antitrust
7 exemption granted to major league baseball is an artifact
8 of the unique value that individual teams have within their
9 home communities, and that breaking the bonds that tie

1 franchises to their communities would nullify the legal and
2 public policy basis for such exemption.

3 **SEC. 3. COMPENSATION FOR HOME COMMUNITIES OF PRO-**
4 **FESSIONAL BASEBALL TEAMS.**

5 (a) Any professional baseball club that relocates its
6 home field more than 25 miles from its previous location
7 shall be required to provide compensation to its former
8 host community.

9 (b) Such compensation shall be—

10 (1) not less than the State, local, and or Tribal
11 tax revenue levied in the ten years prior to the date
12 of relocation; and

13 (2) paid respectively to each State, local, and or
14 Tribal government which levied taxes on the club in
15 ten years prior to the date of relocation.

16 (c) Should any professional baseball club fail to pro-
17 vide the compensation required by subsection (b), then—

18 (1) no persons in the business of organized pro-
19 fessional baseball shall be exempt from the antitrust
20 laws; and

21 (2) section 27 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C.
22 26b) shall not apply to the business of organized
23 professional baseball.

24 (d) Should any professional baseball club seek to
25 avoid the compensation required by this Act by disbanding

1 the club, then the officers of such club shall be personally
2 responsible for the cost of compensation.

3 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act—

5 (1) the term “home field” means the venue
6 where a professional baseball club plays more than
7 one-third of its games in any calendar year;

8 (2) the term “host community” means the
9 State, local, and or tribal government areas where a
10 professional baseball team has its home field and
11 where it contributes tax revenue; and

12 (3) the term “antitrust laws”—

13 (A) has the meaning given the term in
14 subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton
15 Act (15 U.S.C. 12); and

16 (B) includes section 5 of the Federal
17 Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45) to the
18 extent that such section applies to unfair meth-
19 ods of competition.

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