AN ACT relating to athletics.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 156.070 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The Kentucky Board of Education shall have the management and control of the common schools and all programs operated in these schools, including interscholastic athletics, the Kentucky School for the Deaf, the Kentucky School for the Blind, and community education programs and services.

(2) The Kentucky Board of Education may designate an organization or agency to manage interscholastic athletics in the common schools, provided that the rules, regulations, and bylaws of any organization or agency so designated shall be approved by the board, and provided further that any administrative hearing conducted by the designated managing organization or agency shall be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.

(a) The state board or its designated agency shall assure through promulgation of administrative regulations that if a secondary school sponsors or intends to sponsor an athletic activity or sport that is similar to a sport for which National Collegiate Athletic Association members offer scholarships, the school shall sponsor the athletic activity or sport for which a scholarship is offered. The administrative regulations shall specify which athletic activities are similar to sports for which National Collegiate Athletic Association members offer scholarships.

(b) [Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year,] The state board shall require any agency or organization designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics to adopt bylaws that establish as members of the agency's or organization's board of control one (1) representative of nonpublic member schools who is elected by the nonpublic school members of the agency or
organization from regions one (1) through eight (8) and one (1) representative of nonpublic member schools who is elected by the nonpublic member schools of the agency or organization from regions nine (9) through sixteen (16). The nonpublic school representatives on the board of control shall not be from classification A1 or D1 schools. Following initial election of these nonpublic school representatives to the agency's or organization's board of control, terms of the nonpublic school representatives shall be staggered so that only one (1) nonpublic school member is elected in each even-numbered year.

(c) The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics shall not promulgate rules, administrative regulations, or bylaws that prohibit pupils in grades seven (7) to eight (8) from participating in any high school sports except for high school varsity soccer and football, or from participating on more than one (1) school-sponsored team at the same time in the same sport. The Kentucky Board of Education, or an agency designated by the board to manage interscholastic athletics, may promulgate administrative regulations restricting, limiting, or prohibiting participation in high school varsity soccer and football for students who have not successfully completed the eighth grade.

(d) 1. The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics shall allow a member school's team or students to play against students of a non-member at-home private school, or a team of students from non-member at-home private schools, if the non-member at-home private schools and students comply with this subsection.

2. A non-member at-home private school's team and students shall comply with the rules for student athletes, including rules concerning:
a. Age;  
b. School semesters;  
c. Scholarships;  
d. Physical exams;  
e. Foreign student eligibility; and  
f. Amateurs.

3. A coach of a non-member at-home private school's team shall comply with the rules concerning certification of member school coaches as required by the state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics.

4. This subsection shall not allow a non-member at-home private school's team to participate in a sanctioned:
   a. Conference;  
   b. Conference tournament;  
   c. District tournament;  
   d. Regional tournament; or  
   e. State tournament or event.

5. This subsection does not allow eligibility for a recognition, award, or championship sponsored by the state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics.

6. A non-member at-home private school's team or students may participate in interscholastic athletics permitted, offered, or sponsored by the state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics.

(e) Every local board of education shall require an annual medical examination performed and signed by a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or chiropractor, if performed within the professional's scope.
of practice, for each student seeking eligibility to participate in any school
athletic activity or sport. The Kentucky Board of Education or any
organization or agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic
athletics shall not promulgate administrative regulations or adopt any policies
or bylaws that are contrary to the provisions of this paragraph.

(f) Any student who turns nineteen (19) years of age prior to August 1 shall not
be eligible for high school athletics in Kentucky. Any student who turns
nineteen (19) years of age on or after August 1 shall remain eligible for that
school year only. An exception to the provisions of this paragraph shall be
made, and the student shall be eligible for high school athletics in Kentucky if
the student:

1. Qualified for exceptional children services and had an individual
   education program developed by an admissions and release committee
   (ARC) while the student was enrolled in the primary school program;

2. Was retained in the primary school program because of an ARC
   committee recommendation; and

3. Has not completed four (4) consecutive years or eight (8) consecutive
   semesters of eligibility following initial promotion from grade eight (8)
   to grade nine (9).

(g) The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage
interscholastic athletics shall promulgate administrative regulations or
bylaws, as applicable, to provide that:

1. A member school shall designate all athletic teams, activities, and
   sports as one (1) of the following categories:

   a. Boys';

   b. Coed; or

   c. Girls';
2.  
a. An athletic activity or sport designated as girls', shall not be open
to a person born as a member of the male sex.

b. Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the
eligibility of any student to participate in an athletic activity or
sport designated as boys' or coed; and

3. The state board, an agency designated by the state board to manage
interscholastic athletics, a school district, or a member school shall
not entertain a complaint, open an investigation, or take any other
adverse action against a school for maintaining separate
interscholastic or intramural athletic teams, activities, or sports for
students of the female sex.

(h) 1. The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage
interscholastic athletics shall promulgate administrative regulations that
permit a school district to employ or assign nonteaching or noncertified
personnel or personnel without postsecondary education credit hours to
serve in a coaching position. The administrative regulations shall give
preference to the hiring or assignment of certified personnel in coaching
positions.

2. A person employed in a coaching position shall be a high school
graduate and at least twenty-one (21) years of age and shall submit to a
criminal background check in accordance with KRS 160.380.

3. The administrative regulations shall specify post-hire requirements for
persons employed in coaching positions.

4. The regulations shall permit a predetermined number of hours of
professional development training approved by the state board or its
designated agency to be used in lieu of postsecondary education credit
hour requirements.
5. A local school board may specify post-hire requirements for personnel employed in coaching positions in addition to those specified in subparagraph 3. of this paragraph.

(i) Any student who transfers enrollment from a district of residence to a nonresident district under KRS 157.350(4)(b) shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for one (1) calendar year from the date of the transfer.

(3) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education is hereby authorized to lease from the State Property and Buildings Commission, or others, whether public or private, any lands, buildings, structures, installations, and facilities suitable for use in establishing and furthering television and related facilities as an aid or supplement to classroom instruction, throughout the Commonwealth, and for incidental use in any other proper public functions. The lease may be for any initial term commencing with the date of the lease and ending with the next ensuing June 30, which is the close of the then-current fiscal biennium of the Commonwealth, with exclusive options in favor of the board to renew the same for successive ensuing bienniums, July 1 in each even year to June 30 in the next ensuing even year; and the rentals may be fixed at the sums in each biennium, if renewed, sufficient to enable the State Property and Buildings Commission to pay therefrom the maturing principal of and interest on, and provide reserves for, any revenue bonds which the State Property and Buildings Commission may determine to be necessary and sufficient, in agreement with the board, to provide the cost of acquiring the television and related facilities, with appurtenances, and costs as may be incident to the issuance of the bonds.

(b) Each option of the Kentucky Board of Education to renew the lease for a succeeding biennial term may be exercised at any time after the adjournment
of the session of the General Assembly at which appropriations shall have
been made for the operation of the state government for such succeeding
biennial term, by notifying the State Property and Buildings Commission in
writing, signed by the chief state school officer, and delivered to the secretary
of the Finance and Administration Cabinet as a member of the commission.
The option shall be deemed automatically exercised, and the lease
automatically renewed for the succeeding biennium, effective on the first day
thereof, unless a written notice of the board's election not to renew shall have
been delivered in the office of the secretary of the Finance and Administration
Cabinet before the close of business on the last working day in April
immediately preceding the beginning of the succeeding biennium.

(c) The Kentucky Board of Education shall not itself operate leased television
facilities, or undertake the preparation of the educational presentations or
films to be transmitted thereby, but may enter into one (1) or more contracts to
provide therefor, with any public agency and instrumentality of the
Commonwealth having, or able to provide, a staff with proper technical
qualifications, upon which agency and instrumentality the board, through the
chief state school officer and the Department of Education, is represented in
such manner as to coordinate matters of curriculum with the curricula
prescribed for the public schools of the Commonwealth. Any contract for the
operation of the leased television or related facilities may permit limited and
special uses of the television or related facilities for other programs in the
public interest, subject to the reasonable terms and conditions as the board and
the operating agency and instrumentality may agree upon; but any contract
shall affirmatively forbid the use of the television or related facilities, at any
time or in any manner, in the dissemination of political propaganda or in
furtherance of the interest of any political party or candidate for public office,
or for commercial advertising. No lease between the board and the State Property and Buildings Commission shall bind the board to pay rentals for more than one (1) fiscal biennium at a time, subject to the aforesaid renewal options. The board may receive and may apply to rental payments under any lease and to the cost of providing for the operation of the television or related facilities not only appropriations which may be made to it from state funds, from time to time, but also contributions, gifts, matching funds, devises, and bequests from any source, whether federal or state, and whether public or private, so long as the same are not conditioned upon any improper use of the television or related facilities in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of this subsection.

(4) The state board may, on the recommendation and with the advice of the chief state school officer, prescribe, print, publish, and distribute at public expense such administrative regulations, courses of study, curriculums, bulletins, programs, outlines, reports, and placards as each deems necessary for the efficient management, control, and operation of the schools and programs under its jurisdiction. All administrative regulations published or distributed by the board shall be enclosed in a booklet or binder on which the words "informational copy" shall be clearly stamped or printed.

(5) Upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer or his or her designee, the state board shall establish policy or act on all matters relating to programs, services, publications, capital construction and facility renovation, equipment, litigation, contracts, budgets, and all other matters which are the administrative responsibility of the Department of Education.

SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) **Any student who:**
(a) Is deprived of an athletic opportunity;

(b) Suffers any direct or indirect harm; or

(c) Is subject to retaliation or other adverse action by a school, the state board, or an agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics;

as a result of a violation of an administrative regulation or bylaw promulgated in accordance with subsection (2)(g) of Section 1 of this Act shall have a private cause of action for injunctive relief, monetary damages, and any other relief available under law against the school in violation.

(2) A civil action commenced under this section shall be filed within two (2) years after the date the harm occurred.

(3) For the purposes of this section, monetary damages shall include any psychological, emotional, and physical harm suffered, reasonable attorney's fees and costs, and any other appropriate relief.

SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) (a) A public postsecondary education institution or private postsecondary education institution shall designate all intercollegiate and intramural athletic teams, activities, sports, and events that are sponsored or authorized by the institution as one (1) of the following categories:

1. Men's;

2. Coed; or

3. Women's.

(b) 1. A public postsecondary education institution or private postsecondary education institution shall prohibit a person born as a member of the male sex from competing on any intercollegiate or intramural athletic team or in any intercollegiate or intramural athletic activity, sport, or
event designated as women's.

2. Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the eligibility of any student to participate in an athletic activity or sport designated as men's or coed.

(2) A governmental entity, licensing or accrediting organization, or athletic association or organization shall not entertain a complaint, open an investigation, or take any other adverse action against a postsecondary education institution for maintaining a separate interscholastic or intramural athletic team, activity, sport, or event for members of the female sex.

(3) Any student who:

(a) Is deprived of an athletic opportunity as a result of a violation of subsection (1) of this section.

(b) Suffers any direct or indirect harm as a result of a violation of subsection (1) of this section; or

(c) Is subject to retaliation or other adverse action by a postsecondary institution as a result of reporting a violation of subsection (1) of this section;

shall have a private cause of action for injunctive relief, damages, and any other relief available under law against the postsecondary institution in violation.

(4) A civil action commenced under this section shall be filed within two (2) years after the harm occurred.

(5) For the purposes of this section, monetary damages shall include any psychological, emotional, and physical harm suffered, reasonable attorney's fees and costs, and any other appropriate relief.

⇒ Section 4. This Act may be cited as the Save Women’s Sports Act.