

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 397

To apply arbitration to major league baseball, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mr. WILLIAMS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities

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## A BILL

To apply arbitration to major league baseball, and for other  
purposes.

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 “Major League Play  
5 Ball Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7       It is the purpose of this Act to encourage serious ne-  
8       gotiations between the major league baseball players and  
9       the owners of major league baseball, to prevent the contin-  
10      ued economic loss to individuals not involved in the nego-  
11      tiations whose livelihood depends on baseball being played,

1 to prevent ongoing losses to those communities that host  
2 major league baseball, to preserve major and minor league  
3 baseball, and to resolve the dispute between the players  
4 and owners.

5 **SEC. 3. ARBITRATION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective February 1, 1995, the  
7 dispute between the owners of major league baseball and  
8 the labor organization representing the players of major  
9 league baseball shall be subject to binding arbitration by  
10 the arbitration board established under subsection (b).

11 (b) ARBITRATION BOARD.—

12 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—For purposes of sub-  
13 section (a), there is established an arbitration board  
14 which shall consist of—

15 (A) one representative of the owners of  
16 major league baseball selected by such owners,

17 (B) one representative of the major league  
18 baseball player's association selected by such  
19 association, and

20 (C) one individual to be selected in accord-  
21 ance with the procedures of the American Arbi-  
22 tration Association or procedures otherwise  
23 agreed to by the parties.

24 The board shall convene February 1, 1995 to resolve  
25 all issues not resolved by the parties.

1           (2) AUTHORITY.—The board shall have the  
2 power to take testimony under oath, to conduct  
3 hearings, and to issue subpoenas for books and  
4 records. The parties appearing before the board may  
5 be represented by counsel.

6           (3) DECISION.—The board shall select between  
7 the final offer of each party which may be submitted  
8 before the close of the hearing held under paragraph  
9 (2). The board shall consider the following in select-  
10 ing the most appropriate offer—

11                   (A) the unique legal status of major league  
12 baseball,

13                   (B) the history of collective bargaining  
14 agreements between the parties,

15                   (C) the changes in circumstances of the  
16 parties,

17                   (D) the owner's ability to pay,

18                   (E) the best interests of baseball, and

19                   (F) other factors considered by arbitration  
20 panels if applicable given the history of major  
21 league baseball and past collective bargaining  
22 between the parties.

23           The board shall render a decision on March 15,  
24 1995, which shall be final, binding, and replace the

- 1 basic agreement between the parties which expired
- 2 on December 31, 1993.

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