

# SENATE RESOLUTION No. 108

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 26, 2009

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator RICHARD J. CODEY**  
**District 27 (Essex)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Urges National Collegiate Athletic Association to adopt for college football the National Football League Rooney Rule requiring teams with head coaching vacancy to interview minority candidates for the position.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



SR108 CODEY

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1   **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the National Collegiate Athletic  
2       Association to adopt for college football the National Football  
3       League Rooney Rule.

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5   **WHEREAS**, Named after Pittsburgh Steelers owner Dan Rooney, the  
6       National Football League’s (NFL) “Rooney Rule” requires teams  
7       with a head coaching vacancy to interview at least one minority  
8       candidate as part of the process to fill the vacancy; and

9   **WHEREAS**, Prior to the NFL’s implementation of the rule in 2003,  
10      minority head coaches comprised just 6% of the head coaching  
11      positions in the NFL, and at the start of the 2006 season the number  
12      had jumped to 22%; and

13   **WHEREAS**, Although the NFL has seen an increase in the number of  
14      minorities hired as head football coaches, no such policy currently  
15      exists at the collegiate level, and a recent report released by the  
16      Black Coaches and Administrators portrays a grim picture  
17      concerning the number of minority head coaches hired in college  
18      football; and

19   **WHEREAS**, Out of 119 colleges and universities which participate in  
20      the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A), only six  
21      African Americans, one Latino, and one Pacific Islander were  
22      employed as head football coaches at the start of the 2008 season;  
23      and

24   **WHEREAS**, The recent firings of Ron Prince at Kansas State University  
25      and Ty Willingham at the University of Washington reduced the  
26      number of African American head coaches to four, which means  
27      that for a sport in which 50% of the players are African American,  
28      only 3.36% of the top jobs in college football are held by black  
29      coaches; and

30   **WHEREAS**, Adopting the “Rooney Rule” will greatly benefit college  
31      football programs by providing teams with a pool of talented,  
32      dedicated, and competitive head coach applicants that has gone  
33      virtually untapped, and will result in a leadership of college football  
34      programs that more adequately reflects the diversity of the student-  
35      athletes in those programs; now, therefore,

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37        **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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39        1. This House urges the National Collegiate Athletic  
40        Association to adopt for college football the National Football  
41        League’s “Rooney Rule” to require teams with a head football  
42        coaching vacancy to interview minority candidates for the position  
43        before filling the vacancy.

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45        2. A duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the  
46        President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall  
47        be transmitted to each member of the governing body of the  
48        National Collegiate Athletic Association.

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STATEMENT

This Senate resolution urges the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to adopt for college football the National Football League’s (NFL) “Rooney Rule” to require teams with a head football coaching vacancy to interview minority candidates for the position before filling the vacancy.

Prior to the NFL’s implementation of the rule in 2003, minority head coaches comprised just 6% of the head coaching positions in the NFL, and at the start of the 2006 season the number had jumped to 22%. No such policy currently exists at the collegiate level. Out of 119 colleges and universities which participate in the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A), only six African Americans, one Latino, and one Pacific Islander were employed as head football coaches at the start of the 2008 season. Moreover, the recent firings of two of those coaches reduced the number of African American head coaches to four, which means that for a sport in which 50% of the players are African American, only 3.36% of the top jobs in college football are held by black coaches.

Adopting the “Rooney Rule” will greatly benefit college football programs by providing teams with a pool of talented, dedicated, and competitive head coach applicants that has gone virtually untapped, and will result in a leadership of college football programs that more adequately reflects the diversity of the student-athletes in those programs.