

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I have I think two more amendments up there, and if you suspend the rules so that there won't be any further debate on the bill, it matters not to me. I will leave them up there and we will do it on Select File. The bill is going to be debated. I can understand Senator McFarland's pique at this because I have read the bill, to be quite frank about it, more carefully than he has. Senator McFarland, yesterday when I said that all this bill is is an attempt to make the state an enforcement arm of the NCAA, he disagreed with that and said such is not the case. But the underlying factor in this bill can be found on page 12 where a student athlete cannot be contacted by one of these agents, even if registered, and that is because the NCAA has certain rules that Senator McFarland wants to make the state enforce through its criminal law, and I want Senator Lindsay to pay attention to this because he is offering a bill to regulate a rent and buy industry, and they have shown in a case that brought it to his attention how unfair some of these operators are. Yet when Senator Lindsay's bill comes out here, I will bet he would refuse any amendments that I would offer that would put the same requirements on those where we can prove disreputable operators exist, that are on this bill that he and others are going to support. But on page 12, and this is what has Senator McFarland and the coaches at the university concerned, will a player lose his eligibility through talking to one of these agents? That is the crux of the matter, pure and simple. If you want to suspend the rules so that there can be no further discussion of the bill at this time, it doesn't make me any difference at all. Whatever the body votes to do is what the body is going to do, but in this provision that I am talking about in lines 7 through 21, this allows contact with that student athlete who is the one who still has eligibility remaining under NCAA rules. The only time that contact can be held and it be legal is if it is in the context of a university setting up interviews. But here is something I want all of you to pay attention to, if nothing else. The Secretary of State is authorized to promulgate rules...this is for the record, Mr. Chairman, I don't care if they listen.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The Secretary of State is to promulgate rules