

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator McFarland, you wish to run your amendment at this time?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Yes, I do, Mr. President. For those of you who were here...were not here yesterday, I'd like to review, briefly, this bill. This is a bill that was advanced out of Education Committee on a 6 to 1 vote. I was the only...Judiciary, thank you, Judiciary Committee. I was the only dissenting member at that time. It is a bill that deals with a problem concerning financial aid to athletes and discriminatory effects that some of the NCAA rules have upon the distribution of that aid, specifically with respect to Pell Grants, which are federally administered aid to students, and also with other types of institutional aid, work study, loans, programs of academic grants and so on. The NCAA rules require that an athlete who is on scholarship cannot receive more than \$1,400 in excess of room, board, tuition and fees and books. As a result of that when a needy athlete, financial need, receives a Pell Grant and he or she may also be on scholarship, there is a limitation of \$1,400 above the scholarship. Well, the Pell Grant now, I believe, is up to \$2,300 maximum. So in theory an athlete on scholarship who received a Pell Grant for \$2,300, plus a full scholarship, would be in excess of the NCAA rule limiting it to \$1,400 above the room, books, tuition, board and fees. There is also a problem with the nonscholarship athlete that we talked about yesterday, because under NCAA rules if there is a nonscholarship athlete who is recruited or encouraged to attend the university or any other athletic program in our state, if that athlete receives academic aid from the institution, then the NCAA rules require if he or she is in varsity competition, in contrast to freshman competition, if he or she is in varsity competition and receives aid, then that person must be counted as one of the scholarship athletes in that sport. The problem is that at the University of Nebraska and elsewhere usually most athletic programs are at their full limit of athletic scholarships so it sets up a circumstance where the nonscholarship athlete has two options. He or she either decides to forego the financial assistance so that he or she can participate in that varsity sport or he or she then has to decide to forego the participation in the sport and then accept the financial aid. That is a very unfair situation. I don't think there is any disagreement about that and I don't think there is any disagreement among Senator Chambers, who has introduced the bill, among the athletic department at the University of Nebraska, among faculty, among people generally.