

February 4, 1991 LB 69

receiving financial aid based on their need, whether they are football or what. It doesn't make any difference what sport.

SENATOR PETERSON: Oh, okay, it takes in swimmers, basketball, track, or whatever.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It takes in...

SENATOR PETERSON: So if this would come into effect, they would all get some kind of a stipend?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, this doesn't deal with the stipend, Senator Peterson. This is a situation where some athletes...we have created programs under the law that provide financial aid to needy students regardless of whether they are athletes, it is not based on being an athlete. But if you happen to be an athlete and you qualify for that aid, and you are what is called a walk-on, then you have to give up that aid in order to participate. What this law says is that no student who wants to participate would have to give up financial aid in order to participate. This does not give a stipend.

SENATOR PETERSON: Okay, I was looking at 69, I think that, or 68 that I am referring to, but it does too include though in this bill all athletes, basketball and track. I also have a concern, Senator Chambers, the more we pursue, the states pursue these type of actions, that the more it will irritate the NCAA, and they are pretty powerful, and I sure hate to get them irritated at us any more than what we might, and, of course, I will reserve judgment on this and probably will vote against it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Peterson. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I just rise again to warn this body that I believe we are overstepping our bounds. College athletes are regulated by the NCAA, and if we want that changed, why then we should go to the NCAA, or get those board members, those members of the NCAA to change their policy, and they may do it. I certainly hope so. But I believe if we pass this legislation, then there will be sanctions applied against some of our college teams, some of our college schools, and I certainly don't want to see that. We have a good football team. We have an opportunity to be on television from time to time, and this certainly helps the citizens in Nebraska