

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 10, 2003 LB 688

announced it would put proposals before the January convention that would change the enforcement process. And in fact that was done. These are bills that the Legislature enacted into law, and they were criticized as this is being criticized. But they resulted in changes by the NCAA. If the bill is killed, the NCAA chalks up another victory, and can go to sleep again, because the states are afraid to come to grips with what the NCAA is doing. Senator Friend mentioned that Nebraska may not always be a money generating program. This is why it's up to the university to establish the amount of the stipend. In addition to that, nobody can deny that football is a big, multimillion dollar entertainment business. It is run like a business. When have you seen any department of the university virtually cleaned out because it wasn't meeting its mission? But you saw the coaching staff cleaned out because they were not winning, and a winning program produces more money than a losing program. The university's image is enhanced. Every time they appear on television, not only do they get money, but it helps the university as far as donations from alumni, booster groups, and others who want to be associated with a winning program. And it's all from the football team. Remember, this bill is designed to get the nose of the camel into the tent. Whatever happens with football influences everything that the NCAA does. This bill would establish the principle that the schools able to give their players a stipend would have the authority to do so. There are schools like Nebraska which not only are able to give the stipend, but would give it if NCAA rules did not threaten them. This is not compelling the university to do something it cannot do.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: When they testified, they said they would like to do it. They said they agree with the goals of the bill. But the only reason they could not come out affirmatively is because they're a member of the NCAA. But as far as the motive of the bill, the goal of the bill, the university is in agreement. And they understand what I'm talking about. The sports industry and the athletics establishment understand what I'm talking about. The football, basketball, and other equipment manufacturers know what I'm talking about. And the