

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

March 10, 2003 LB 688

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Friend, sorry. Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Mr. President, I'd like to engage Senator Chambers with a couple of questions, if I might.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, would you respond?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Senator. And let me just begin by saying, I hope this isn't redundant. I have missed part of the debate this morning. But what I'm looking at right now is the fiscal note that shows a possible fiscal impact to the state of \$751,000. Senator Chambers, I'm going to let you respond to that if you would, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. That fiscal note is based on the original form of the bill, which said that the players would be paid a minimum of the federal minimum wage, which is \$5.15, and they base that on however many hours per week they would be working for the university. So that's how they arrived at that seven hundred and something thousand dollar amount. But it shows that even if that were the amount of the stipend, the football program could easily absorb that amount. Last year alone they brought in \$26 million.

SENATOR MAXWELL: So your intention is that the stipend money would come from the revenue generated by the football program?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. And if during a year when they were seven and seven they brought in \$26 million, we don't have to worry about the bottom falling out overnight. And the fact that ESPN was willing to give them an extra game in this coming season for a national broadcast on Thursday shows that Nebraska is still a hot television product, and they will be for years to come.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Personally, I'm more comfortable with the money coming from that source than, certainly, from the state coffers. One other question. I did hear your exchange with Senator Engel about the possibility of Title IX implications in