

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

April 3, 2003

LB 688

differences between the direction that this bill goes and the direction that I feel that the NCAA, and its member institutions, should end up going, and really for lack of a better term, how we're going to end up getting there. Senator Chambers, obviously, has years of work in this area, and I would defer to a lot of that. But what I cannot defer to is the idea that this is a subject that can...where its conclusion can be reached by only one angle or one avenue. I know he hasn't professed that, but I do believe that there are other ways to, I guess use the...to proverbially skin this cat. I think the philosophical difference is from the direction that I'm coming and I believe the direction Senator Chambers is coming is that, and I expressed this to him and others, I always looked at this as a privilege. I think a lot of other folks that are involved in college athletics look at it as a privilege as well, to be involved. And a scholarship, like I said in General File, is worth a lot of money. It's what you do with it. It's how you get there. The bottom line is I looked at it a certain way, and my experience is all I have to deal with on this. I really felt like when I was in college, and the work that I've done in the past as a sportswriter with some of the athletes that I got to know and even care about to the degree that I did, I think a lot of them felt the same way. That might be seen as naive. I don't believe that it is. The second part of it is the practical aspect. If you paid, and I know I guess the end goal is not necessarily to do that, if you paid the 360,000 athletes, student athletes, not just the football players that are out there, of all the NCAA members institutions, what you're dealing with, if you paid them \$2,000 annually, if that was the question, what you're dealing with is that you would suck up every penny of the NCAA's CBS contract for those purposes only, to pay those players. And you'd still end up short of money. You'd end up about maybe a quarter of a million dollars short of having enough money to pay all of these people. Now the things is, Senator Chambers had made a good point, and we actually talked off the record, that there's probably too many NCAA member institutions dividing these resources up. But as it currently stands, we're talking about...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.