

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 10, 2003 LB 435, 688

Committee on Business and Labor reports LB 435 to General File, signed by Senator Vrtiska as Chair. Mr. President, a hearing notice from Judiciary, signed by Senator Brashear as Chair. That's all that I have. (Legislative Journal pages 768-769.)

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Next item on the agenda, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 688 is a bill introduced by Senator Chambers. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 22 of this year, referred to the Business and Labor Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have Business and Labor Committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0074, Legislative Journal page 576.)

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: The Chair would recognize Senator Chambers to open on LB 688.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm a bit nasal this morning and some people are wondering how it is that I can get any ailment. Well, in order for me to consider myself sick I have to have that which would kill the ordinary citizen. So over the weekend, I had a medical checkup because I had a little cow in my box, I mean a cough in my chest. So the doctor discovered West Nile virus, anthrax and pneumonia. It has settled down since then into what some might call an ordinary touch of the flu. So I'm much better than I was. This is a bill, which in the form that it will be amended into by the committee amendment, would give a stipend to the football players. There are a few preliminaries I should discuss first. This bill, as drafted, this bill when enacted and signed by the Governor will not put one penny into any player's hands. What it will do is put pressure on the NCAA, the National Collegiate Athletic Association. In the past, there have been actions by this Legislature which forced the NCAA to make changes that benefited the players. I handed out a thick packet to you which documented some of those examples, and as the debate on the bill progresses, I will make reference to some of them specifically. But I think I have to emphasize that the eligibility of the university will not be put in jeopardy. If you look at one of the first pages in that handout, you will