

MAR 19 2003
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 639
BY FORD

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to stipends for athlete students competing in a
2 state board of regents university football program and
3 including a conditional effectiveness provision.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

HF 639

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1 Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS -- ATHLETIC STIPENDS.

2 1. The general assembly finds and declares the following:

3 a. Scandals are rampant throughout college football as
4 evidenced by the number of schools placed on probation by the
5 national collegiate athletic association, coaches dismissed or
6 forced to resign for improprieties, and players declared
7 ineligible to compete for violating rules against receiving
8 fair financial compensation.

9 b. Many players are recruited from impoverished families
10 and the rules of the national collegiate athletic association
11 prohibiting reasonable financial compensation render such
12 players vulnerable to inducements, benefits, and other types
13 of compensation defined as illicit by the national collegiate
14 athletic association rules.

15 c. A fair rate of financial compensation would give
16 players a choice when offered illicit inducements,
17 compensation, or assistance.

18 d. The rules of the national collegiate athletic
19 association prohibiting compensation are unduly restrictive
20 and unreasonable, promote unfairness, encourage dishonesty in
21 recruiting and retaining players, and would not be tolerated
22 if applied to all students.

23 e. Players at United States service academies are
24 compensated while in attendance and are eligible to compete
25 against schools that are members of the national collegiate
26 athletic association.

27 f. Iowa state university of science and technology and the
28 university of Iowa participate in the national intercollegiate
29 football program that produces millions of dollars through
30 ticket sales, lucrative national television and other
31 electronic broadcast contracts, and postseason bowl games.

32 g. The football programs promote the universities and
33 generate valuable intangible benefits such as enhancement of
34 each university's image.

35 h. The exertion of players and the revenue they generate

1 produces employment and salaries for numerous others,
2 subsidizes other sports programs at the universities, and
3 underwrites travel expenses of numerous university officials,
4 staff, and others who attend postseason bowl games in which
5 the teams participate.

6 i. The universities employ large athletic departments to
7 administer their intercollegiate athletic programs and
8 sizeable football coaching staffs charged primarily with the
9 responsibility of producing teams capable of competing
10 successfully against the best teams in their conferences and
11 in the nation and of generating as much revenue as possible.

12 j. Maintaining winning football teams has become an
13 integral aspect of the overall business or occupation of the
14 universities as institutions.

15 k. The football programs could not exist without the
16 athletes who play the arduous and dangerous game.

17 l. Such athletes do not appear at the university by
18 accident or happenstance, but are actively recruited by
19 university personnel at considerable expense.

20 m. Such athletes are not recruited nor are scholarships
21 awarded on the basis of need or academic achievement, but for
22 athletic prowess, the recipients having been recruited to be
23 football players first, scholars second.

24 n. Many players spend more time on football-related
25 activities than academics.

26 o. Because a sound academic program for football players
27 may be difficult to develop due to the demands of the sport,
28 football players are entitled to some tangible return for the
29 strenuous work they perform and the revenue they generate for
30 the benefit of the universities.

31 2. The general assembly further finds and declares that,
32 in the same manner nonathlete students are compensated for
33 performing various tasks while enrolled as students, football
34 players shall be entitled to fair financial compensation for
35 playing football.

1 3. Any person who competes for an institution of higher
2 learning under the control of the state board of regents in an
3 intercollegiate football program sanctioned by the national
4 collegiate athletic association shall be granted a stipend by
5 the university in which the person is enrolled. The amount of
6 the stipend shall be determined by the university.

7 4. This section shall not be construed to make a person a
8 professional athlete.

9 Sec. 2. CONDITIONAL EFFECTIVENESS. This Act takes effect
10 whenever laws granting a similar stipend are enacted in at
11 least three other states that have teams competing in national
12 collegiate athletic association division I-A and I-AA football
13 conferences.

14 EXPLANATION

15 This bill states legislative findings and declarations
16 regarding the necessity for allowing athlete students who
17 compete in regents university football programs to receive
18 stipends for their participation in the football program. The
19 bill requires the universities to pay their athlete students
20 who compete in an intercollegiate football program sanctioned
21 by the national collegiate athletic association a stipend, but
22 states that nothing in the bill shall be construed to make a
23 person who receives such a stipend a professional athlete.
24 The amount of the stipend is to be determined by the
25 university. The bill takes effect when at least three other
26 states with comparable football programs require similar
27 stipends.

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