



Stages of Nebraska Legislative Bill 688
(First reading January 22, 2003)

LB 688 as Introduced	LB 688 after E&R Amendments	LB 688 after Enactment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violations of rules against “fair financial compensation” create “rampant” scandals. NCAA rules prohibiting “reasonable financial compensation” impact players from poor families. “Fair rate of financial compensation” will provide positive choice against temptation. NCAA rules are “unduly restrictive”, etc., and “would not be tolerated if applied to all students.” Players at U.S. service academies receive compensation and compete against NCAA schools prohibiting compensation. <p style="text-align: right;">[LB 688 Sec. 1(1)-1(5)]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(Unchanged from LB 688 as Introduced)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[LB 688 Sec. 1(1)-1(5)]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(Unchanged from LB 688 as Introduced)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[Neb. Rev. Stat. 85-1,131(1) – 85-1,131(5)]</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNL football receives millions through ticket sales, media rights, and bowl games. UNL football promotes UNL and its image. UNL players generate funds for salaries, for other programs, and to cover bowl attendance expenses. UNL has a large athletic program to support its football to win and produce revenues. Successful football program is “integral” to UNL. UNL football could not exist without athletes. Athletes are “actively recruited” by UNL. UNL athletic scholarships are results solely of football skills. UNL players may spend more time on football than academic. UNL players are entitled to “tangible return for the strenuous work they perform and the revenue they generate.” <p style="text-align: right;">[Sec. 2(1)-2(10)]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(Unchanged from LB 688 as Introduced)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[Sec. 2(1)-2(10)]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(Unchanged from LB 688 as Introduced)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[85-1,132(1) – 85-1,132(10)]</p>
<p>“[I]n the same manner that non-athlete students are compensated for performing various tasks while a student, football players shall be entitled to fair financial compensation for playing football.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[Sec. 3]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(Unchanged from LB 688 as Introduced)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[Sec. 3]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(Unchanged from LB 688 as Introduced)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[85-1,133]</p>

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Any UNL football player “shall be an employee ... who shall be covered by the Nebraska Workers’ Compensation Act and be paid compensation, the amount of which shall be no less than the federal minimum wage.” [Sec. 4]	Any UNL football player “may be granted a stipend, the amount of which shall be determined by [UNL].” UNL may also grant stipends to “persons who compete in sports other than football which participate in Big Twelve Conference competition.” [Sec. 4]	(Unchanged from LB 688 after E&R Amendments) [85-1,134]
UNL “shall establish rules setting forth wages, hours, and conditions of work governing football players.” [Sec. 5]	N/A	N/A
“The purpose of this act is to provide financial compensation to football players, and nothing in this act shall be construed to make a person a professional athlete.” [Sec. 6]	“Nothing in this act shall be construed to make a person a professional athlete.” [Sec. 5]	(Unchanged from LB 688 after E&R Amendments) [85-1,135]
“This act shall become operative whenever laws substantially similar are enacted in at least three other states which are members of the Big Twelve Conference.” [Sec. 7]	“This act shall become operative whenever laws granting a similar stipend or similarly restricting hours of participation are enacted in at least four other states which have teams that compete in the Big Twelve Conference or its successor.” [Sec. 6]	(Unchanged from LB 688 after E&R Amendments) [85-1,136]
N/A	As a “preferable alternative” to a stipend, UNL may limit the number of hours in “intercollegiate athletics” so as to not impede a “student athlete’s ability to carry a regular academic workload...to graduate in four years,” to allow the athlete time to participate in campus events, and to “allow the student athlete to work an average of at least twelve hours per week during the academic school year.” [Sec. 7]	(Unchanged from LB 688 after E&R Amendments) [85-1,137]

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