

HB 2097 -- ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

SPONSOR: Chipman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill changes the law regarding athletic scholarships. The bill requires that if a student athlete receiving an athletic scholarship from an athletic program at a public college or university in Missouri suffers an injury as a result of the athlete's participation in the athletic program, as specified in the bill, the athletic program must renew the athlete's athletic scholarship at the same amount provided at the time of the injury until the athlete obtains an undergraduate degree, but no longer than five academic years. The renewal of a scholarship under these provisions is not required if there is a basis for nonrenewal unrelated to an injury.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that institutions of higher education are not currently required to continue paying a student athlete's scholarship if the athlete is hurt while playing for the institution. This bill would make the schools move the injured student athlete to a non-athletic scholarship.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Chipman.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say some schools, such as the University of Missouri-Columbia, Missouri State University, and Missouri Western State University, already continue an athlete's scholarship (either in the form of a non-athletic scholarship or some other type of scholarship) or otherwise fund student athletes for their entire academic career.

Testifying on the bill were University Of Missouri System and Missouri Western State University.