

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY REPRESENTATIVE NORTON

SCHOOLS/HIGH SCHOOL: Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt policies requiring more rigorous student athlete health screenings

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt
3 policies requiring more extensive testing of the health of student athletes in
4 Louisiana's secondary schools.

5 WHEREAS, participation in organized athletics is an integral and enriching
6 experience for students in Louisiana secondary schools; and

7 WHEREAS, due to the nature of athletic competition, student athletes face inherent
8 risks to their health and safety when participating in school-organized athletic practices,
9 events, and games; and

10 WHEREAS, the leading causes of death among secondary school athletes are sudden
11 cardiac arrest, traumatic head injuries, exertional heat stroke, and exertional sickling; and

12 WHEREAS, *The Orthopedic Journal of Sports Medicine* published a study
13 conducted by the University of Connecticut that included rankings of states regarding the
14 implementation of evidence-based best practices for preventing and managing the leading
15 causes of sudden death in secondary school athletics; the purpose of the study was to provide
16 a graded assessment of the implementation of health and safety policies pertaining to the
17 leading causes of sudden death and catastrophic injury in secondary school athletics within
18 the United States and the District of Columbia; Louisiana ranked 43rd in their 2019
19 rankings; and

20 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52 of the 2005 Regular Session
21 requested the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the issue of

1 improving the health and safety of student athletes in Louisiana's secondary schools; in
2 response to the resolution, the board submitted findings from preliminary investigations; and

3 WHEREAS, the board concluded there is a need for further comprehensive study in
4 the areas of high blood pressure, concussion and mild traumatic brain injury, congenital
5 cardiovascular disease, performance-enhancing drugs including steroids, spinal cord injury,
6 and heat-related illness; and

7 WHEREAS, the safety of Louisiana's student-athletes should be the highest priority,
8 and it is important to work towards minimizing the inherent risks that all sports entail; and

9 WHEREAS, through the implementation of required policies and procedures, schools
10 can be well prepared to preserve and protect the health of students.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt policies
13 requiring more extensive testing of the health of student athletes in Louisiana's secondary
14 schools.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
16 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 40 Original

2019 Regular Session

Norton

Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education adopt policies requiring more extensive testing of the health of student athletes in secondary schools.