

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY REPRESENTATIVE NORTON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request public school governing authorities to adopt policies requiring more extensive testing of the health of student athletes in Louisiana's secondary schools.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52 of the 2005 Regular Session requested the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the issue of improving the health and safety of student athletes in Louisiana's secondary schools; in response to the resolution, the board submitted findings from preliminary investigations; and

WHEREAS, the board concluded there is a need for further comprehensive study in the areas of high blood pressure, concussion and mild traumatic brain injury, congenital

cardiovascular disease, performance-enhancing drugs including steroids, spinal cord injury, and heat-related illness; and

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request public school governing authorities to adopt policies requiring more extensive testing of the health of student athletes in Louisiana's secondary schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive directors of the Louisiana Association of Principals, the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, and the Louisiana School Boards Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE