



1           WHEREAS, a young person at the peak of physical prowess, dying without any  
2 warning is a shocking, tragic, and potentially preventable death; and

3           WHEREAS, it is obvious that more needs to be done to prevent sudden cardiac arrest  
4 among young athletes; and

5           WHEREAS, uniform screening methods are needed for students and young people  
6 participating in athletics to detect heart defects; and

7           WHEREAS, many of these tragic deaths could be prevented if we employ early  
8 detection methods; such as, the Electrocardiogram (EKG) and Echocardiogram (heart  
9 ultrasound); and

10          WHEREAS, according to the American Heart Association, EKGs are noninvasive,  
11 painless, inexpensive tests that use electrodes attached to the chest to record the heart's  
12 electrical activity; and

13          WHEREAS, EKGs are a standard tool that reads the heart's electrical activity to find  
14 abnormal rhythms and are designed to identify conditions by determining blood flow and  
15 whether areas of the heart are abnormally thick; and

16          WHEREAS, in addition to the use of early detection testing methods, the American  
17 Heart Association recommends a twelve-step history screening process to help prevent  
18 sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletes; and

19          WHEREAS, the screening includes twelve questions about personal and family  
20 medical history and a physical examination to uncover aspects of an athlete's health that  
21 could signal a cardiovascular problem; and

22          WHEREAS, heart screening will attempt to identify some preexisting heart  
23 conditions that could potentially increase a student's risk of a cardiac event or sudden cardiac  
24 death with vigorous physical activity; and

25          WHEREAS, the complete heart screening process typically includes the following:  
26 (1) a focused medical history questionnaire; (2) blood pressure measurements; (3) an EKG;  
27 (4) a physician review and examination; and (5) a limited echocardiogram; and

28          WHEREAS, in certain circumstances after an EKG reading indicates that there are  
29 potential heart-related problems the student athlete would be required to take follow-up tests;  
30 and

1           WHEREAS, the combination of history screening and the early detection tests can  
2 increase the probability of preventing sudden cardiac arrests in young athletes.

3           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
4 create a study committee, composed of members as hereinafter provided, to study and make  
5 recommendations with respect to the detection and prevention of cardiac arrest in young  
6 athletes.

7           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee created herein shall be  
8 composed of five members as follows:

9           (1) A member of the Louisiana High School Athletics Association appointed by the  
10 executive director of such association.

11           (2) A cardiovascular physician approved by the Louisiana State Board of Medical  
12 Examiners and appointed by the executive director of the board.

13           (3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals or his  
14 designee.

15           (4) A member of the Louisiana Athletics Trainer's Association, Inc., appointed by  
16 the president of the association.

17           (5) A member of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports appointed  
18 by the director of the council.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the study committee shall serve  
20 without compensation.

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee should study the feasibility  
22 of requiring all high school and collegiate athletes to be screened for early detection of heart  
23 disease.

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of health and hospitals or his  
25 designee shall convene the first meeting of the study committee and shall designate staff of  
26 the Department of Health and Hospitals to assist the study committee in performing its  
27 duties.

28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall meet as necessary and  
29 shall report its findings to the legislature not later than February 1, 2013.

---

**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)]

---

Smith

HCR No. 78

Creates a study committee to study and make recommendations with respect to the detection and prevention of cardiac arrest in young athletes and to study the feasibility of requiring all high school and collegiate athletes to be screened for early detection of heart disease. Specifies that the study committee be composed of five members as follows:

- (1) A member of the La. High School Athletics Association appointed by the executive director of the association.
- (2) A cardiovascular physician approved by the La. State Board of Medical Examiners and appointed by the executive director of the board.
- (3) The secretary of the La. Dept. of Health and Hospitals or his designee.
- (4) A member of the La. Athletics Trainer's Association, Inc., appointed by the president of the association.
- (5) A member of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports appointed by the director of the council.

Requires the secretary of health and hospitals or his designee to convene the first meeting of the study committee and to designate staff of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to assist the study committee in performing its duties.

Specifies that members of the study committee serve without compensation.

Requires the study committee to meet as necessary and report its findings to the legislature not later than Feb. 1, 2013.

**Summary of Amendments Adopted by House**

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original resolution.

1. Modifies a provision of the study to properly reflect that the study committee should study the feasibility of requiring all collegiate athletes be screened for early detection of heart disease.
2. Makes technical changes.

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed resolution.

1. Removes provisions specifying that a member of each of the House and Senate health and welfare committees serve on the study committee.
2. Removes provisions concerning reimbursement and per diem and specifies that members of the study committee serve without compensation.

3. Adds provisions specifying that high school athletes be considered in the study.
4. Adds provisions requiring the secretary of health and hospitals or his designee to convene the first meeting of the study committee and to designate staff of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to assist the study committee in performing its duties.