HLS 19RS-575 ENGROSSED

2019 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY REPRESENTATIVE NORTON

SCHOOLS/HIGH SCHOOL: Requests public school governing authorities adopt policies requiring more extensive testing of the health of student athletes in secondary schools

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request public school governing authorities to adopt policies requiring more 3 extensive testing of the health of student athletes in Louisiana's secondary schools. 4 WHEREAS, participation in organized athletics is an integral and enriching 5 experience for students in Louisiana secondary schools; and 6 WHEREAS, due to the nature of athletic competition, student athletes face inherent 7 risks to their health and safety when participating in school-organized athletic practices, 8 events, and games; and 9 WHEREAS, the leading causes of death among secondary school athletes are sudden 10 cardiac arrest, traumatic head injuries, exertional heat stroke, and exertional sickling; and WHEREAS, The Orthopedic Journal of Sports Medicine published a study 11 12 conducted by the University of Connecticut that included rankings of states regarding the 13 implementation of evidence-based best practices for preventing and managing the leading 14 causes of sudden death in secondary school athletics; the purpose of the study was to provide 15 a graded assessment of the implementation of health and safety policies pertaining to the 16 leading causes of sudden death and catastrophic injury in secondary school athletics within 17 the United States and the District of Columbia; Louisiana ranked 43rd in their 2019 18 rankings; and 19 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52 of the 2005 Regular Session 20 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 public school governing authorities to adopt policies requiring more 13 extensive testing of the health of student athletes in Louisiana's secondary schools. 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 15 executive directors of the Louisiana Association of Principals, the Louisiana Association of 16 Public Charter Schools, the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, and the 17 Louisiana School Boards Association.

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)]

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Norton

Requests that public school governing authorities adopt policies requiring more extensive testing of the health of student athletes in secondary schools.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Education</u> to the <u>original</u> resolution:

1. Change addressee of the request from the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to public school governing authorities.