

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 195

BY REPRESENTATIVES NORTON AND DIXON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Education to study the need for government oversight of the procedures of the executive committee of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, specifically with respect to protecting due process rights and providing for appeals of its decisions, and to examine mechanisms by which such oversight might be exercised and to report its findings to the House of Representatives and the House Committee on Education by March first each year until such oversight is established.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana High School Athletic Association was formed by a group of principals in 1920 to regulate high school interscholastic athletics and is now governed by an executive committee; and

WHEREAS, the association is currently composed of approximately three hundred ninety member schools, of which almost eighty percent are public institutions; and

WHEREAS, nearly ninety thousand Louisiana students annually participate in athletics; and

WHEREAS, the state has a compelling interest in protecting the due process rights of its citizens and institutions; and

WHEREAS, many considered the association to be a quasi-public entity until the association sued the state of Louisiana over a legislative audit (*LHSAA v. State of Louisiana*, 107 So.3d 583 (La 2013)), and, despite the state's compelling interest in interscholastic athletics conducted for its citizens and the fact that the association's membership is overwhelmingly comprised of public employees, the Louisiana Supreme Court found that the association was a private corporation; and

WHEREAS, during the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, legislation such as Senate Bill No. 633 raised significant concerns about the fact that there

is no opportunity for students or schools to appeal decisions made by the association or its executive committee, which, many argue, is in effect a denial of the due process rights of those students and schools; and

WHEREAS, since the state of Louisiana has such a compelling interest in the fair disposition of proceedings for its citizens and institutions, it is critical that a method be found by which the state can oversee the actions and decisions of the association.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Education to study the need for government oversight of the procedures of the executive committee of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, specifically with respect to protecting due process rights and providing for appeals of its decisions, and to examine mechanisms by which such oversight might be exercised and to report its findings to the House of Representatives and the House Committee on Education by March first each year until such oversight is established.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES