

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 31

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARDY

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

STUDENTS: Provides relative to minimum academic eligibility requirements for participation by certain students in interscholastic athletics

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:176(B) and (C), relative to standards for student participation
3 in interscholastic athletics; to establish minimum academic eligibility requirements
4 for participation by certain students in interscholastic athletics; to require the State
5 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt a policy relative to such
6 eligibility requirements; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:176(B) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
10 follows:

11 §176. Extracurricular activities; participation; standards; prohibitions; filming or
12 videotaping; definitions

13 * * *

14 B. The superintendent of each city, ~~and parish,~~ and other local public school
15 system shall cause the ~~principals and faculties~~ principal and faculty of each ~~middle,~~
16 ~~junior high, and high~~ school to take all actions necessary or appropriate to upgrade
17 the academic standards of ~~student athletes~~ all students such that each ~~such athlete,~~
18 student, to the extent possible, accomplishes his maximum potential in academic
19 endeavors while participating in interscholastic athletics.

1 C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt a
2 policy ~~no later than March 31, 1985~~ which as at a minimum shall require requires
3 ~~that the 1984 Scholastic Rule of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association be~~
4 ~~adhered to by all high schools under its jurisdiction. The Board is further directed~~
5 ~~to review the policy of the Association~~ to be eligible to participate in any
6 interscholastic athletic activity, a public school student in grades six through twelve
7 has attained not less than a "C" average, as determined by the governing authority
8 of the school in which the student is enrolled, for all courses of study for the previous
9 grading period and shall maintain, as of the conclusion of the most recent grading
10 period, at least a "C" average, as determined by the governing authority, for all
11 courses of study for the year. The board shall review its policy on an annual basis
12 and adopt such rules as are necessary to ~~insure~~ ensure that these minimum standards
13 are maintained or upgraded.

14 * * *

15 Section 2. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt a
16 policy as required by R.S. 17:176(C) as amended by this Act effective for the 2011-2012
17 school year and thereafter.

18 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
19 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
20 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
21 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
22 effective on the day following such approval.

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)]

Hardy

HB No. 31

Abstract: Requires BESE to adopt a policy requiring at least a "C" average for public school students in grades six through 12 to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Present law requires local school superintendents to cause principals and faculties of middle, junior high, and high schools to upgrade the academic standards of student athletes so that

such athletes accomplish their maximum potential in academic endeavors while participating in interscholastic athletics.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to adopt a policy requiring, as a minimum that the Louisiana High School Athletic Association 1984 scholastic rule (relative to minimum academic requirements, including a 1.5 grade point average) be adhered to by all high schools under its jurisdiction. Requires BESE annually to review the association's policy and to adopt rules as necessary to ensure that such minimum standards are maintained or upgraded.

Proposed law instead requires BESE to adopt a policy which at a minimum requires that to be eligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic activity, a public school student in grades six through 12 has attained at least a "C" average for all courses of study for the previous grading period and shall maintain, as of the conclusion of the most recent grading period, at least a "C" average for all courses of study for the year. Provides that a "C" average shall be as determined by the governing authority of the school in which the student is enrolled. Requires BESE annually to review its policy and adopt rules as necessary to ensure that such minimum standards are maintained or upgraded.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:176(B) and (C))