

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 seven members as follows:

9 (1) A member of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare appointed by the
10 chairman of such committee.

11 (2) A member of the House Committee on Health and Welfare appointed by the
12 chairman of such committee.

13 (3) A member of the Louisiana High School Athletics Association appointed by the
14 executive director of such association.

15 (4) A cardiovascular physician approved by the Louisiana State Board of Medical
16 Examiners and appointed by the executive director of the board.

17 (5) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals or his
18 designee.

19 (6) A member of the Louisiana Athletics Trainer's Association, Inc., appointed by
20 the president of the association.

21 (7) A member of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports appointed
22 by the director of the council.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the study committee shall serve
24 without compensation but may be reimbursed for incurred expenses; that legislative
25 members shall receive such per diem and expenses as is provided for legislators during
26 attendance at committee meetings; and that other members shall be paid in accordance with
27 state travel regulations by the respective departments, agencies, or associations of which they
28 are officers or employees.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and Hospitals should
2 study the feasibility of requiring all collegiate athletes to be screened for early detection of
3 heart disease.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall meet as necessary and
5 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. Specifies that the study committee created will be composed of seven members as follows:

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

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