

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1276 (Substitute for House Bill No. 609 by Representative Abramson)

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAMSON

PROPERTY/PUBLIC: Provides for the use of the Superdome for interscholastic athletic activities in certain circumstances

1 AN ACT

2 To provide for the lease or use of certain state property in Orleans Parish; to prohibit the  
3 lease or use of the Louisiana Superdome for interscholastic athletic activities under  
4 certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. The Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District shall not lease or  
7 otherwise allow or permit the use of the Louisiana Superdome by the Louisiana High School  
8 Athletic Association during the 2014-2015 school year for interscholastic athletic activities  
9 if either of the following occurs:

10 A. A student otherwise academically eligible to participate in an extracurricular  
11 interscholastic athletic activity is determined by the Louisiana High School Athletic  
12 Association to be ineligible for or otherwise prohibited from participating in such activity  
13 at his school if all of the following apply to the student:

14 (1) Arrived in the United States in 2007 as a refugee from Uganda with little more  
15 than the clothes on his back.

16 (2) Endured years of horrific atrocities at the hands of the rebel forces terrorizing his  
17 homeland where family members were brutally murdered.

18 (3) Escaped with his family, on foot in the dark of night, traveling many miles to the  
19 limited safety of various camps where refugees faced deplorable conditions and malnutrition  
20 and finally immigrated to the United States and arrived in Baton Rouge.

1 (4) Was placed in public schools in East Baton Rouge Parish in the seventh grade  
2 consistent with his chronological age where education assessments later revealed that the  
3 student in fact had the equivalent of a first grade education with little to no formal education,  
4 did not speak English, and had received little or no math and reading training.

5 (5) Attended a Catholic elementary school in 2008, where a pre-admission  
6 evaluation showed that while the student was very intelligent, he lagged behind his grade  
7 level academically, so he was again placed in the seventh grade, which he successfully  
8 completed as well as the eighth grade, working tirelessly to catch up with his classmates, all  
9 the while exhibiting an amazing attitude and aptitude for learning.

10 (6) Was admitted to high school in the fall of 2010 where another round of  
11 pre-admission testing ensued requiring the student to repeat the eighth grade to further  
12 strengthen his academic skills.

13 (7) Worked tirelessly in the classroom and after school to maintain his grades and  
14 during that time he was introduced to the sport of football, exhibited promising athletic  
15 skills, and began to participate in that school's sports program.

16 (8) Entered his senior year at high school in the fall of 2014 and will also become  
17 nineteen years of age on July 7, 2014.

18 B. Playoff competition for football is subdivided into select admission schools and  
19 non-select admission schools. For the purposes of this Subsection, "select admission school"  
20 means a public or nonpublic school that has an admission policy to select the students who  
21 attend the school, and "nonselect admission school" means a public school that has a  
22 designated attendance zone or a charter school whose charter mandates that the school have  
23 an open admission policy and does not include admission requirements for the selection and  
24 retention of its students.

25 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
26 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
27 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
28 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
29 effective on the day following such approval.

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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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Abramson

HB No. 1276

**Abstract:** Prohibits the La. High School Athletic Assoc. from leasing or using the La. Superdome during the 2014-2015 school year for interscholastic athletic activities under certain circumstances.

Proposed law prohibits the La. Stadium and Exposition District from leasing or otherwise allowing for use of the La. Superdome to the La. High School Athletic Assoc. (LHSAA) during the 2014-2015 school year for interscholastic athletic activities if either occurs:

- (1) A 12th grade student meeting specified criteria and otherwise academically eligible is determined by the LHSAA to be ineligible to participate in an extracurricular interscholastic athletic activity.
- (2) Playoff competition for football is subdivided into select admission schools and nonselect admission schools.

Proposed law provides for the definition of "select admission schools" and "nonselect admission schools".