

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE STUDY REQUEST NO. 5

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD

ATHLETICS: Requests the House Committee on Education to study and report on certain issues and concerns relative to the recruitment of student athletes

1 A STUDY REQUEST

2 To the House Committee on Education to study issues and concerns relative to the
3 recruitment of students by both public and nonpublic schools to participate in high
4 school athletics and the enforcement and oversight of school recruitment practices
5 by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association and to report its findings to the
6 House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the
7 Legislature of Louisiana.

8 WHEREAS, the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) was created
9 to promote, regulate, and direct the interscholastic athletic activities of Louisiana public and
10 nonpublic high schools that are members of the association; and

11 WHEREAS, the constitution adopted by the LHSAA states that its purposes include
12 to protect members of the association by preparing and enforcing eligibility rules that will
13 equalize and stimulate wholesome competition, to prevent the exploitation of member
14 schools' programs by special interest groups, and to preserve the game for the boys and girls
15 and not sacrifice the boys and girls to the game; and

16 WHEREAS, the LHSAA constitution further states that the association is vitally
17 interested in the welfare of every boy and girl participating in its athletic contests and that
18 it is for the protection of their interests that the association operates; and

19 WHEREAS, one way that the association attempts to provide such protection is
20 through its policy relative to the recruitment of students for participation in athletics; and

21 WHEREAS, according to information found on the association's website, the
22 LHSAA "maintains a strict policy against the recruitment of student-athletes for athletic

1 purposes" and considers such recruitment to be "a gross violation of the spirit and
2 philosophy of the LHSAA's constitution and bylaws"; and

3 WHEREAS, such information further states that coaches are prohibited from using
4 their positions to influence potential student athletes to enroll at or transfer to the school at
5 which they are employed and from having contact with students living outside their schools'
6 attendance zones; and

7 WHEREAS, there are concerns from interested parties that these policies are being
8 ignored by some schools and that many coaches are in violation of the policies especially
9 with regard to student transfers and contact; and

10 WHEREAS, there are also some concerns regarding the lack of uniformity in the
11 enforcement of these policies by the LHSAA resulting in unfair competition among schools;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, in order to ensure that students are not being exploited or taken
14 advantage of and that the purposes of the LHSAA are being fulfilled as intended, especially
15 those relative to protecting students, it is imperative that a study be conducted on these
16 issues and concerns regarding the recruitment of student athletes.

17 THEREFORE, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana requests
18 the House Committee on Education to study issues and concerns relative to the recruitment
19 of students by both public and nonpublic schools to participate in high school athletics and
20 the enforcement and oversight of school recruitment practices by the Louisiana High School
21 Athletic Association and to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the
22 convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

DIGEST

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Howard

HSR No. 5

Requests the House Committee on Education to study issues and concerns relative to the recruitment of students by both public and nonpublic schools to participate in high school athletics and the enforcement and oversight of school recruitment practices by the La. High School Athletic Association and to report its findings prior to the 2012 R.S.