

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 31

BY REPRESENTATIVES HARDY, CARMODY, CARTER, DOWNS, EDWARDS, AND SCHRODER

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; interscholastic athletics; participation; standards;  
12 prohibitions; filming or 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 such that each such athlete, to the extent  
18 possible, accomplishes his maximum potential in academic endeavors while  
19 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 that the  
3           ~~1984 Scholastic Rule of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association be adhered~~  
4           ~~to by all high schools under its jurisdiction. The Board is further directed to review~~  
5           ~~the policy of the Association on an annual basis and adopt such rules as are~~  
6           ~~necessary to insure that these minimum standards are maintained or upgraded.~~ shall  
7           require that the scholastic rule adopted by the Louisiana High School Athletic  
8           Association in January of 2010 be adhered to by all high schools under its  
9           jurisdiction. The association's scholastic regulations, which include a "C" average  
10          as determined by the local governing authority of the school in which the student is  
11          enrolled, shall serve as the minimum standard upon which each school builds higher  
12          academic standards.

\* \* \*

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

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

HB No. 31

**Abstract:** Requires BESE to adopt a policy requiring high schools to adhere to the La. High School Athletic Association's Scholastic Rule that requires a "C" average 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's (LHSAA) 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 to ensure that such minimum standards are maintained or upgraded.

Proposed law retains present law requirement that BESE adopt a policy but refers to the LHSAA's rule adopted in Jan. of 2010 instead of the 1984 rule and provides that the BESE policy shall be effective for the 2011-2012 school year and thereafter. Adds that the LHSAA's scholastic regulations ("C" average) shall be the minimum standard. Deletes the requirement that BESE review the association's policy and adopt rules relative thereto.

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

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

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Adds that BESE policy shall require that the Jan. 2010 Scholastic Rule of the LHSAA ("C" average to participate in sports) be adhered to by all high schools under its jurisdiction.
2. Deletes requirement that public school students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades have at least a "C" average for all courses of study to participate in sports.
3. Deletes requirement that BESE annually review its policy and adopt rules relative thereto.