

CHAPTER 38
(HCR 155)

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the Legislative Research Commission to establish a task force to study issues related to middle school interscholastic athletics in public schools.

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Board of Education has the management and control of the common schools and all programs operated in these schools, including interscholastic athletics, the Kentucky School for the Deaf, the Kentucky School for the Blind, and community education programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Board of Education has designated the Kentucky High School Athletics Association (KHSAA) to manage interscholastic athletics; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA manages the day-to-day operation of interscholastic athletics at the high school level; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA has adopted bylaws to establish a standard for best practices at the high school level related to the health and safety of athletes; training and certification requirements for coaches; basic rules of play; length of seasons; playoff guidelines; and district, regional, and state tournament guidelines for all high school interscholastic athletics; and

WHEREAS, the oversight of middle school interscholastic athletics is primarily left to the administrators and staff at each individual middle school, and thus varies across the state; and

WHEREAS, a few non-profit organizations, such as the Kentucky Middle School Football Association, Inc. and the Kentucky State Wrestling Association, Inc., have been formed to provide a common set of rules, establish a playoff system, and otherwise strive to improve those respective middle school sports; and

WHEREAS, a study of middle school interscholastic athletics to determine whether "best practice" guidelines specific to middle school interscholastic athletics regarding health and safety of athletes, training and certification requirements for coaches, basic rules of play, and the length of seasons should be established for specific sports through such non-profit organizations to improve middle school athletics;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission is directed to establish a task force to study the current oversight of interscholastic athletics at the middle school level and assess possible options for the creation of "best practice" guidelines specific to middle school interscholastic athletics and support to non-profit organizations to improve middle school athletics. Areas of investigation shall include, but not be limited to, a review of the following:

- (a) Existing policies and practices at the school or district level that govern middle school interscholastic athletics;
- (b) Existing policies and practices related to the health and safety of student athletes;
- (c) Existing training and certification requirements for coaches and opportunities for coaches to participate in training and certification courses;
- (d) Individual and team sports offered at the middle school level;
- (e) The length of regular seasons of each sport;
- (f) The opportunity for participation in regular season and post-season play in each sport;
- (g) Existing and optional athletic and liability coverage for middle school interscholastic athletes and coaches; and
- (h) Options for the creation of "best practice" guidelines specific to each middle school sport and support to non-profit organizations to improve middle schools athletics.

➔Section 2. (1) The task force of the Legislative Research Commission shall be appointed by August 1, 2012, and shall be composed of the following members with final membership of the task force being subject to the consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

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- (a) The chair of the Senate Education Committee or designee;
 - (b) The chair of the House Education Committee or designee;
 - (c) The chair of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee or designee;
 - (d) The chair of the House Health and Welfare Committee or designee;
 - (e) The commissioner of education or designee;
 - (f) The commissioner of the Kentucky High School Athletics Association or designee;
 - (g) A representative of Kentucky middle school principals and a representative of Kentucky high school principals, to be recommended by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators;
 - (h) A representative of athletic trainers, to be recommended by the Kentucky Athletic Trainers Society;
 - (h) A representative of Kentucky school superintendents, to be recommended by the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents;
 - (i) A representative of the Kentucky Middle School Football Association, to be selected by its governing board;
 - (j) A representative of the Kentucky Middle School State Wrestling Association, to be selected by its governing board;
 - (k) A representative of the Kentucky Middle School Basketball Association to be selected by its governing board;
 - (l) A parent representative, to be selected by the Kentucky Parent-Teachers' Association; and
 - (m) Additional members as needed, as determined by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (2) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint one co-chair of the task force from among the members of the task force.

➔Section 3. The task force shall report its findings to the Legislative Research Commission, the Interim Joint Committee on Education, and the Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare no later than December 7, 2012, and shall make recommendations to improve interscholastic athletics at the middle school level.

➔Section 4. The Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof and to designate a study completion date.

Signed by Governor April 11, 2012.