

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R5472 BDH-F

S.B. 700
By: Ogden
Education
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the University Interscholastic League (UIL) can deny any private school the right to compete in UIL solely because it is a private school. As proposed, S.B. 700 prohibits UIL from preventing a school from competing because it is a private school, and requires UIL to establish procedures and eligibility criteria by which private schools can participate in a UIL activity or become a member of a UIL district. This bill also establishes size requirements for private schools and authorizes UIL to adopt rules that discourage a private school from recruiting students to the school to participate in UIL activities.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the University Interscholastic League in SECTION 1 (Section 33.087, Education Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 33D, Education Code, by adding Section 33.087, as follows:

Sec. 33.087. PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE ACTIVITIES. (a) Prohibits the University Interscholastic League (UIL) from discriminating in any way against a private school or its students.

(b) Provides that this section does not exempt a private school or its students from satisfying the eligibility requirements for participating in an activity or UIL district sponsored by UIL.

(c) Requires a private school to use a UIL form and prove eligibility with proof of accreditation in applying to participate in a UIL activity or become a member of a UIL district. Prohibits UIL from imposing eligibility requirements or requiring proof of accreditation from private schools that exceed the requirements of this subchapter. Requires UIL to issue a certificate of approval upon approval of an application. Provides that both the application and certificate are governmental records for the purposes of Section 37.10, Penal Code (Tampering with a Governmental Record).

(d) Requires UIL to multiply the enrollment of an eligible single-sex private school by two to determine the appropriate district league in which the school will participate, provided it is not placed in a league lower than the 3A level.

(e) Authorizes UIL to adopt rules to discourage a private school from recruiting students to the school to participate in UIL activities, but prohibits a rule from being designed to discriminate against an eligible school.

(f) Sets forth eligibility criteria.

(g) Defines "private school" according to Section 39.033(d), Education Code (Voluntary Assessment of Private School Students).

SECTION 2. Provides that this Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004 school year.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.