

By: Nixon

H.B. No. 1164

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to participation by private school students in University Interscholastic League sponsored activities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.087 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.087. PARTICIPATION BY PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE ACTIVITIES. (a) The University Interscholastic League may not deny a school or its students the opportunity to participate in an activity sponsored by the league or the opportunity to become a member of an appropriate league district because the school is a private school.

(b) This section does not exempt a private school or its students from satisfying each eligibility requirement imposed by this subchapter or the University Interscholastic League for participating in an activity or league district sponsored by the league.

(c) A private school seeking to participate in a University Interscholastic League activity or to become a member of a league district must apply to the league on a signed form prescribed by the league. The private school must certify its eligibility under this subchapter and league rules in the application and must attach proof of accreditation. The league may not impose requirements for private schools that exceed the requirements of this subchapter or

1 league rules for public schools. On approval of an application, the
2 league shall issue a certificate of approval to the applicant
3 school. The application and certificate of approval are
4 governmental records for purposes of Section 37.10, Penal Code.

5 (d) To determine the appropriate University Interscholastic
6 League district in which an eligible private school with a single
7 sex student enrollment will participate, the league must multiply
8 the private school's enrollment by two and place the private school
9 in an appropriate league district based on that enrollment figure.

10 (e) For purposes of determining the eligibility of a student
11 to participate in a University Interscholastic League activity, the
12 attendance zone for an eligible private school is the geographic
13 area of the public school district in which the private school is
14 located.

15 (f) To be eligible under this section, a private school
16 must:

17 (1) be accredited by an accrediting organization
18 recognized by the Texas Education Agency;

19 (2) offer a four-year high school curriculum;

20 (3) offer interscholastic competition; and

21 (4) require daily student attendance at a specific
22 location.

23 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004
24 school year.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.