

By: Corte

H.B. No. 2588

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 33.0831 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.0831. PARTICIPATION BY PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE ACTIVITIES. (a) In this section, "private school" has the meaning assigned by Section 39.033(d).

(b) The University Interscholastic League may not deny a school or its students the opportunity to participate in an activity sponsored by the league or become a member of an appropriate league district or otherwise discriminate against a private school or its students if the private school:

(1) is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the agency;

(2) offers a four-year high school curriculum;

(3) offers interscholastic competition;

(4) requires daily student attendance at a specific location; and

(5) sought membership in another interscholastic organization but was denied membership in that organization.

(c) A private school seeking to participate in a University Interscholastic League activity or to become a member of a league

1 district must apply to the league on a signed form prescribed by the
2 league. The private school must certify its eligibility under this
3 subchapter and league rules in the application and must attach
4 proof of accreditation. The league may not impose eligibility
5 requirements for private schools that exceed the requirements of
6 this subchapter or league rules for public schools or require proof
7 of eligibility that exceeds the proof required of public schools.
8 On approval of an application, the league shall issue a certificate
9 of approval to the applicant school. The application and
10 certificate of approval are governmental records for purposes of
11 Section 37.10, Penal Code.

12 (d) To determine the appropriate University Interscholastic
13 League district in which an eligible private school will
14 participate, the league must multiply the private school's
15 enrollment by two and place the private school in an appropriate
16 league district based on that enrollment figure, provided that the
17 private school is placed in a league district not lower than the 2A
18 level.

19 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2007-2008
20 school year.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.