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H.B. No. 1775

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the authority of the University Interscholastic League  
3 regarding activities involving sports officials.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 33, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 33.085 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 33.085. AUTHORITY OF UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC  
8 LEAGUE REGARDING ACTIVITIES INVOLVING SPORTS OFFICIALS. (a) In  
9 this section:

10 (1) "League" means the University Interscholastic  
11 League.

12 (2) "Sports official" means a person who officiates,  
13 judges, or in any manner enforces contest rules in any official  
14 capacity with respect to and during the course of an  
15 interscholastic athletic team competition and who is a member of a  
16 league-recognized local chapter or association of sports  
17 officials. The term includes a referee, umpire, linesman, judge,  
18 or any other person similarly involved in supervising competitive  
19 play. The term does not include a league board member or a league  
20 official who is acting in an official capacity to supervise,  
21 administer, or enforce the league constitution or league contest  
22 rules.

23 (b) The league may require a sports official, as a condition  
24 of eligibility to officiate a contest sponsored by the league, to:

1           (1) be registered with the league and comply with the  
2 registration requirements of Subsection (c);

3           (2) have completed initial and continuing education  
4 programs regarding league rules;

5           (3) be a member in good standing of a local chapter or  
6 association of sports officials recognized by the league for that  
7 purpose; and

8           (4) agree to abide by league rules, including fee  
9 schedules and travel reimbursement guidelines for payment by school  
10 districts or open-enrollment charter schools to a sports official.

11           (c) In registering with the league, a sports official must  
12 be required to provide directory information required by the league  
13 and submit to a criminal background check.

14           (d) The league may not charge a sports official who  
15 completes a program under Subsection (b)(2) a fee for more than one  
16 program described by Subsection (b)(2).

17           (e) The league may charge and collect a registration fee  
18 only to defray the cost of registering sports officials and shall  
19 post the amount of the fee on the league's Internet website and make  
20 the information available at other places the league determines  
21 appropriate. The amount of the fee may not exceed the amount  
22 reasonably determined by the league to be necessary to cover the  
23 cost of administering registration.

24           (f) The league may revoke or suspend the league registration  
25 of a sports official determined by the league to have violated the  
26 provisions of the league constitution or contest rules governing  
27 sports officials or other league policy applicable to sports

1 officials. Before the league may take action to revoke or suspend a  
2 sports official's registration, the league shall notify and consult  
3 with the local chapter or association of sports officials of which  
4 the sports official is a member. The local chapter or association  
5 may, on or before the 15th day after the date notice is received  
6 from the league, take action to adjudicate the alleged violation.  
7 If after the 15th day after the date notice is received from the  
8 league the local chapter or association has failed to take action  
9 against the sports official or takes action that the league finds to  
10 be insufficient, the league may take action against the sports  
11 official. The league shall adopt rules to provide a sports official  
12 with the opportunity for an appeals process before the league  
13 revokes or suspends the sports official's registration. In adopting  
14 rules under this subsection, the league shall make a determination  
15 of the actions and subsequent sanctions that would be considered  
16 sufficient under this subsection.

17 (g) The league may not sponsor or organize or attempt to  
18 sponsor or organize any association of sports officials in which  
19 the majority of the membership is composed of sports officials who  
20 officiate team sports.

21 (h) The league may set rates or fee schedules payable by a  
22 school district or open-enrollment charter school to a sports  
23 official.

24 (i) Before the league may take any action that amends rules  
25 related to the activities of sports officials, other than an action  
26 against an individual sports official under Subsection (f), the  
27 league must submit the proposed action for public review and

1 comment, including:

2 (1) notifying registered sports officials of the  
3 proposed action by e-mail not later than the 30th day before the  
4 date set for action on the proposal; and

5 (2) posting the proposal on the league's Internet  
6 website for at least 30 consecutive days before the date set for  
7 action on the proposal.

8 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.