

By: Dominguez, Martinez, Lucio III, Guillen,
et al.

H.B. No. 2193

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2193:

By: Dutton

C.S.H.B. No. 2193

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the creation of an inclusive sports program by the
3 University Interscholastic League to provide students with
4 disabilities access to team sports.

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

6 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as Zariah's Law.

7 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 33, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 33.097 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 33.097. INCLUSIVE SPORTS PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH
10 DISABILITIES. (a) The University Interscholastic League shall
11 ensure students with disabilities have an opportunity to
12 participate in team athletic activities by establishing and
13 maintaining an inclusive sports program.

14 (b) The University Interscholastic League shall adopt rules
15 as necessary to establish, maintain, and expand the inclusive
16 sports program. The rules must:

17 (1) accommodate inclusive team sports offered through
18 the program at participating public middle schools, junior high
19 schools, and high schools in the state;

20 (2) establish eligibility requirements for
21 participation in each inclusive team sport offered through the
22 program;

23 (3) identify best practices for school districts to
24 incorporate inclusive sports; and

1 (4) require the program to incorporate activities that
2 promote:

3 (A) bullying prevention;

4 (B) moral intelligence;

5 (C) character development;

6 (D) leadership development;

7 (E) physical fitness; and

8 (F) positive school culture.

9 (c) In adopting the rules under Subsection (b), the
10 University Interscholastic League shall consider and incorporate
11 as appropriate:

12 (1) federal guidance regarding providing access to
13 extracurricular athletics for students with disabilities;

14 (2) guidance available from nationally recognized
15 organizations that promote inclusion and acceptance among students
16 with and without disabilities;

17 (3) information regarding inclusive sports programs
18 that have been successfully implemented in this state, in other
19 states, and by nonprofit organizations;

20 (4) input from school districts and the agency; and

21 (5) guidance provided by impacted stakeholders,
22 including by parents of or persons standing in parental relation to
23 students with disabilities.

24 (d) The University Interscholastic League may appoint a
25 person to provide guidance on behalf of impacted stakeholders for
26 purposes of Subsection (c)(5).

27 (e) In maintaining the inclusive sports program, the

1 University Interscholastic League shall, to the greatest extent
2 possible, require:

3 (1) students who participate in the inclusive sports
4 program to be subject to the same rules and requirements as students
5 who participate in other athletic programs offered by the league,
6 including:

7 (A) grade and disciplinary requirements under
8 Section 33.081(c); and

9 (B) requirements related to student safety in
10 athletic activities under this chapter and Chapter 38; and

11 (2) team sports provided through the inclusive sports
12 program to be organized similarly to other athletic programs
13 offered by the league, including with respect to team practices,
14 seasonal play, and local and statewide competitions.

15 (f) In addition to using funds available or appropriated for
16 the purpose, the University Interscholastic League or a partner
17 affiliated with the league may seek and accept gifts, grants, or
18 donations of money from public and private sources for the purpose
19 of establishing or expanding the inclusive sports program.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.