

1-1 By: Lucio S.B. No. 776
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 24, 2021; March 11, 2021,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Education;
 1-4 April 23, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; April 23, 2021,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8 Taylor	X			
1-9 Lucio	X			
1-10 Bettencourt	X			
1-11 Hall	X			
1-12 Hughes			X	
1-13 Menéndez	X			
1-14 Paxton	X			
1-15 Perry	X			
1-16 Powell	X			
1-17 Schwertner	X			
1-18 West	X			

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 776 By: Lucio

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to the creation of an inclusive sports program by the
 1-24 University Interscholastic League to provide students with
 1-25 intellectual disabilities access to team sports.

1-26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-27 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as Zariah's Law.

1-28 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 33, Education Code, is
 1-29 amended by adding Section 33.097 to read as follows:

1-30 Sec. 33.097. INCLUSIVE SPORTS PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH
 1-31 INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES. (a) The University Interscholastic
 1-32 League shall ensure students with intellectual disabilities have an
 1-33 opportunity to participate in team athletic activities by
 1-34 establishing and maintaining an inclusive sports program.

1-35 (b) The University Interscholastic League shall adopt rules
 1-36 as necessary to establish, maintain, and expand the inclusive
 1-37 sports program. The rules must:

1-38 (1) accommodate inclusive team sports offered through
 1-39 the program at participating public middle schools, junior high
 1-40 schools, and high schools in the state;

1-41 (2) establish eligibility requirements for
 1-42 participation in each inclusive team sport offered through the
 1-43 program;

1-44 (3) identify best practices for school districts to
 1-45 incorporate inclusive sports; and

1-46 (4) require the program to incorporate activities that
 1-47 promote:

1-48 (A) bullying prevention;

1-49 (B) moral intelligence;

1-50 (C) character development;

1-51 (D) leadership development;

1-52 (E) physical fitness; and

1-53 (F) positive school culture.

1-54 (c) In adopting the rules under Subsection (b), the
 1-55 University Interscholastic League shall consider and incorporate
 1-56 as appropriate:

1-57 (1) federal guidance regarding providing access to
 1-58 extracurricular athletics for students with intellectual
 1-59 disabilities;

1-60 (2) guidance available from nationally recognized

2-1 organizations that promote inclusion and acceptance among students
2-2 with and without intellectual disabilities;

2-3 (3) information regarding inclusive sports programs
2-4 that have been successfully implemented in this state, in other
2-5 states, and by nonprofit organizations;

2-6 (4) input from school districts and the agency; and

2-7 (5) guidance provided by impacted stakeholders,
2-8 including by parents of or persons standing in parental relation to
2-9 students with intellectual disabilities.

2-10 (d) The University Interscholastic League may appoint a
2-11 person to provide guidance on behalf of impacted stakeholders for
2-12 purposes of Subsection (c)(5).

2-13 (e) In maintaining the inclusive sports program, the
2-14 University Interscholastic League shall, to the greatest extent
2-15 possible, require:

2-16 (1) students who participate in the inclusive sports
2-17 program to be subject to the same rules and requirements as students
2-18 who participate in other athletic programs offered by the league,
2-19 including:

2-20 (A) grade and disciplinary requirements under
2-21 Section 33.081(c); and

2-22 (B) requirements related to student safety in
2-23 athletic activities under this chapter and Chapter 38; and

2-24 (2) team sports provided through the inclusive sports
2-25 program to be organized similarly to other athletic programs
2-26 offered by the league, including with respect to team practices,
2-27 seasonal play, and local and statewide competitions.

2-28 (f) In addition to using funds available or appropriated for
2-29 the purpose, the University Interscholastic League or a partner
2-30 affiliated with the league may seek and accept gifts, grants, or
2-31 donations of money from public and private sources for the purpose
2-32 of establishing or expanding the inclusive sports program.

2-33 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

2-34 * * * * *