By:  Paxton S.B. No. 401

(In the Senate - Filed November 21, 2024; February 3, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Education K-16; April 22, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 1; April 22, 2025, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Creighton            X

Campbell             X

Bettencourt          X

Hagenbuch            X

Hinojosa of Nueces   X

King                 X

Menéndez             X

Middleton            X

Parker               X

Paxton               X

West                     X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 401 By:  Middleton

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to participation by non-enrolled students in University Interscholastic League-sponsored activities.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 33.0832, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (c) and (e) and adding Subsections (c-2) and (e-1) to read as follows:

(c)  Except as provided by Subsections (c-2) and [~~Subsection~~] (i), a public school that participates in an activity sponsored by the league shall [~~may~~] provide a non-enrolled student, who otherwise meets league eligibility standards to represent that school in a league activity, with the opportunity to participate in the activity on behalf of the school in the same manner that the school provides the opportunity to participate to students enrolled in the school.

(c-2)  Not later than the date specified under league rule, the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school may adopt a policy declining to grant non-enrolled students the opportunity to participate in league activities.

(e)  Except as provided by Subsection (e-1), a [~~A~~] non-enrolled student may only participate in a league activity for the school in the school district that the student would be eligible to attend based on the student's residential address. A non-enrolled student who seeks to participate in a league activity on behalf of a school shall be required to establish minimum proof of residency acceptable to the district in the same manner as an applicant to attend a school in the district under Section 25.001.

(e-1)  If the school that a non-enrolled student would be eligible to attend under Subsection (e) is subject to a policy adopted under Subsection (c-2), the student may participate in a league activity for the closest school, based on geographic proximity to the student's residential address, that is not subject to a policy adopted under Subsection (c-2).

SECTION 2.  This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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