

By: Paxton, Campbell

S.B. No. 929

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to equal opportunity for access by home-schooled students to University Interscholastic League-sponsored activities; authorizing a fee.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.0833 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.0833. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE ACTIVITIES.

(a) In this section, "home-schooled student" has the meaning assigned by Section 29.916.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (g), a public school that participates in an activity sponsored by the University Interscholastic League shall provide a home-schooled 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) A home-schooled student who seeks to participate or who participates in a league activity on behalf of a school is subject to the relevant policies that apply to students enrolled in the school, including policies regarding registration, age eligibility, fees, insurance, transportation, physical condition,

1 qualifications, responsibilities, event schedules, standards of
2 behavior, and performance.

3 (d) The parent or legal guardian of a home-schooled student
4 is responsible for oversight of academic standards relating to the
5 student's participation in a league activity. As a condition of
6 eligibility to participate in a league activity during the first
7 six weeks of a school year, a home-schooled student must
8 demonstrate grade-level academic proficiency on any nationally
9 recognized, norm-referenced assessment instrument, including the
10 Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Stanford Achievement Test, California
11 Achievement Test, and Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills. A
12 home-schooled student demonstrates the required academic
13 proficiency by achieving a composite, core, or survey score that is
14 within the average or higher than average range of scores, as
15 established by the applicable testing service. For purposes of
16 this subsection, a school district shall accept assessment results
17 administered or reported by a third party.

18 (e) A home-schooled student's demonstration of academic
19 proficiency under Subsection (d) is sufficient for purposes of that
20 subsection for the school year in which the student achieves the
21 required score and the subsequent school year.

22 (f) After the first six weeks of a school year, the parent or
23 legal guardian of a home-schooled student participating in a league
24 activity on behalf of a public school must periodically, in
25 accordance with the school's grading calendar, provide written
26 verification to the school indicating that the student is receiving
27 a passing grade in each course or subject being taught.

1 (g) A home-schooled student is not authorized by this
2 section to participate in a league activity during the remainder of
3 any school year during which the student was previously enrolled in
4 a public school.

5 (h) The University Interscholastic League may not prohibit
6 a home-schooled student from participating in league activities in
7 the manner authorized by this section.

8 (i) This section expires July 1, 2017.

9 SECTION 2. Effective July 1, 2017, Subchapter D, Chapter
10 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.0834 to read as
11 follows:

12 Sec. 33.0834. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS
13 TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE ACTIVITIES.

14 (a) In this section, "home-schooled student" has the meaning
15 assigned by Section 29.916.

16 (b) Notwithstanding the expiration of Section 33.0833, as
17 added by S.B. 929, Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session,
18 2013, a home-schooled student who participated in an activity
19 sponsored by the University Interscholastic League under the
20 authority of that section before July 1, 2017, may continue to
21 participate in the same league activity on the same terms
22 previously specified by that section.

23 (c) This section expires July 1, 2030.

24 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014
25 school year.

26 SECTION 4. Except as otherwise provided by this Act:

27 (1) this Act takes effect immediately if it receives a

1 vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution; and

3 (2) if this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
4 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.