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From: Joe Martin, THSCA Executive Director

23 Proposed Bills filed in the 89th Legislative Session that include mention of the U.I.L. in their text.

As of 1/30/25, there are twenty-three bills filed with UIL in their text. We want to highlight fourteen of those twenty-three bills for your attention. It is important to note, there may be additional bills that impact UIL without including the words “University Interscholastic League” in the text. We will update you on those after some additional research.

The fourteen we want to flag for your immediate attention are as follows:

89(R) HB 619 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Gervin-Hawkins
Caption: Relating to the transfer for an athletic participation purpose of a student from the school district of the student's residence to another district.

This bill allows students to transfer one-time for athletic purposes without sanction. It is unclear if this would also eliminate the parent residency requirements in UIL rules related to that transfer.

89(R) HB 775 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Frank
Caption: Relating to the participation by non-enrolled students in University Interscholastic League-sponsored activities.

This bill would allow a homeschool student living in an ISD that does not allow homeschool students to participate to participate at the school closest to the student’s residence that does allow homeschool participation. Additionally, it changes what is a currently and opt in process

to an opt out process for school districts. Currently, schools must opt in to allow homeschool students to participate. This changes that to say a school shall allow them to participate unless, through board action, they opt out of doing so.

89(R) HB 810 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Gervin-Hawkins
Caption: Relating to the requirements for hearings and meetings conducted by the University Interscholastic League.

This bill changes UIL DEC and SEC processes considerably. These changes would include:

- *No sanction can be imposed until the sanction has been reviewed and approved by the Commissioner of Education.*
- *All DEC and SEC meetings must be video and audio recorded and those recording made accessible on our website with 24 hours of the end of the meeting.*
- *Hearing posting would be required at least 5 days in advance and include all evidence collected on a case and a full list of witnesses to be called.*
- *Anonymous complaints cannot be included, investigated, or considered.*
- *Testimony must be presented in person and subject to cross examination.*
- *The same rules of evidence would apply to hearings as those in a court of law.*
- *All DECs and the SEC would be required to have an attorney present at all hearings.*
- *No time limits may be set on hearings at all.*
- *Each DEC and SEC decision would have to be followed with a written finding of facts following the decision.*

89(R) HB 819 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Gervin-Hawkins
Caption: Relating to the functions and duties of the University Interscholastic League.

This bill contemplates making UIL subject to open meetings requirements and public information requirements, which already apply to UIL business. The bill also adds parental rights to information requirements in 26.008, which already apply. Further, the bill adds sections 2001.051 requiring a minimum of a 10-day notice for a hearing at the DEC or SEC level, 2001.052 specifying the requirements of a hearing notice, and 2001.053 which provides for a person's right to legal counsel which UIL rules already provides.

89(R) HB 830 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Gervin-Hawkins
Caption: Relating to the administration of the University Interscholastic League.

This bill would put into statute essentially the same requirements for UIL rule making that already exist in UIL rule with some additions:

- *The bill states the UIL Executive Director may not serve more than one four-year term. Thus, the UIL would be required to hire a new Executive Director every four years.*
- *SEC members would be limited to two two-year terms.*

89(R) HB 832 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Gervin-Hawkins
Caption: Relating to procedures regarding hearings and meetings held by or involving the University Interscholastic League.

This bill includes essentially the same requirements as listed in HB 810 with some additions:

- *States the hearing of a DEC must take place in an ISD that is part of the DEC. No central sites could be used that are not located in an ISD in the DEC.*
- *Decisions of a DEC or the SEC are further appealable to an Administrative Law Judge in addition to being approved by the Commissioner of Education.*
- *The maximum penalty for changing schools for athletic purposes would be limited to one year with that sanction being stayed until both the Commissioner has approved it and the appeal to the Administrative Law Judge has been completed.*
- *A DEC or the SEC must give the greatest weight in making a decision to the testimony of the student's parent over all other evidence.*

89(R) HB 850 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Lalani
Caption: Relating to the availability of automatic external defibrillators and a cardiac emergency response plan at public schools and certain private schools in this state.

This bill changes the requirements on schools for placing AEDs in locations and for developing a cardiac emergency response plan and cardiac emergency response team.

89(R) HB 1123 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Lopez, Janie
Caption: Relating to interscholastic athletic competition based on biological sex, requirements for physical examinations and genetic testing in interscholastic athletics, and the adoption of rules by the University Interscholastic League to implement these requirements.

This bill requires a physician conducting a UIL preparticipation physical examination to refer a student for chromosomal testing if the physician reasonably suspects the student's chromosomal sex is different than that indicated on the student's birth certificate issued at or near the time of birth. The bill prohibits a student from participating as a sex different than that of their chromosomal sex. Currently, some other medical professionals other than physicians may conduct these physicals. This bill specifically refers to physicians. It is unclear if that means medical professionals other than physicians will be able to continue conducting these exams.

89(R) HB 2211 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Bumgarner
Caption: Relating to the compensation and professional representation of certain students participating in University Interscholastic League activities or in intercollegiate athletic programs at certain institutions of higher education.

This bill would allow high school student athletes to enter into and profit from NIL agreements without those impacting a student's UIL athletics eligibility.

89(R) SB 401 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Paxton
Caption: Relating to the participation by non-enrolled students in University Interscholastic League-sponsored activities.
This is a companion bill to HB 775 with the same language.

89(R) SB 551 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Schwertner
Caption: Relating to selection of statewide competition locations by the University Interscholastic League.

This bill requires regular formal RFP processes for all UIL state championship event facilities. We already have a competitive process, it simply is not the formal RFP process because, so few facilities actually meet the requirements for our events.

89(R) SB 587 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: West
Caption: Relating to terms for members of the state executive committee of the University Interscholastic League.

This bill limits SEC members to serving two three-year terms.

89(R) SB 655 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: West
Caption: Relating to prohibited student athlete name, image, and likeness agreements; providing injunctive relief and a civil penalty.

This bill is not clear to me. It appears to restrict what an agent or other person wishing to enter into an agreement with a student athlete to represent that student athlete for NIL purposes. It is unclear how this limits those persons.

89(R) SB 686 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Paxton
Caption: Relating to the transfer of students between public schools.

This bill allows a student to transfer to any ISD. It only relates to UIL in that it specifically states it does NOT change UIL eligibility rules related to that transfer. It leaves all UIL eligibility rules in place.