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From: Joe Martin, THSCA Executive Director

THSCA Legislative Update – SB 401

Coaches,

Throughout this legislative session, the THSCA team has been closely involved in several bills that impact high school athletics and UIL governance. One of the last major ones still in play is SB 401 (by Senator Paxton), the Senate companion to HB 775 (by Representative Frank). While HB 775 didn't make it out of committee, SB 401 is scheduled to be heard and voted on in the Texas House this Saturday.

SB 401 is specifically aimed at homeschool students who want to participate in UIL activities but live in a district that doesn't currently allow them to do so. As originally written, the bill would have permited those students to compete in an adjacent school district that does allow homeschool participation. Much of the discussion has centered around how this would be implemented—especially regarding UIL eligibility, transfer policies, and recruiting concerns.

We've been in regular dialogue with stakeholders, and the current substitute version of the bill seems to have adequate safeguards to ensure that UIL rules are applied fairly to both enrolled and non-enrolled students. Discussions are still ongoing today, and we'll keep you posted as things develop and we get a look at the final version of the bill.

We're not asking members to take any action at this time—we just wanted to keep you in the loop. Thank you for your continued trust and support throughout this legislative session. We'll keep working hard to advocate for you and the students you serve. As a reminder, the regular session wraps up on Tuesday, May 27th.