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From: Joe Martin, THSCA Executive Director

Legislative Update – HB 126 – No Payments in High School, Clearer Path to College Agreements

THSCA Members,

Several questions have arisen regarding HB 126, sponsored by Senator Brandon Creighton, which passed both chambers and altered the timing of NIL agreements between high school students and institutions of higher education that offer payments to student-athletes. This change was supported by THSCA and college and university athletic departments to accommodate the ability of high school students to sign contracts with higher education institutions before they graduate from high school. **High school students can enter into contracts once they are 17 years old to participate in college sports and receive payments only when they are enrolled and on campus at the college/university they have contractually committed to.**

There is no change in the current prohibition on NIL payments for Texas high school students.

"We are creating some common sense by amending it (HB 126), making sure that no athletes under 17 years of age will be eligible for an NIL agreement. And from 17 and older, **no athletes in high school can receive any money under an NIL agreement until they're enrolled in college and participating in the program that they agreed to participate in**," Texas state senator Brandon Creighton explained to the Texas Tribune.

The landscape regarding contractual payments to student athletes continues to evolve as the much-awaited final House agreement is finalized. The future impact on Texas high school students and their relationships as students or employees of colleges and universities will be closely monitored by THSCA. Thanks to Senator Creighton and his staff, along with others, for working with THSCA on this legislation.

Joe Martin, Executive Director, THSCA