

SUBJECT: Private and parochial school participation in UIL activities

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Eissler, Hochberg, Allen, Huberty, Shelton, Strama, Weber
1 nay — Aycock
1 present not voting — Guillen
2 absent — Dutton, T. Smith

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 6 — 21-8 (Duncan, Eltife, Fraser, Hegar, Nichols, Uresti, Watson, Wentworth)

WITNESSES: (*On House companion bill, HB 2322:*)
For — Jerry Eshleman, Cornerstone Christian Schools; Charles Evans, Texas Association of Non-public Schools; Tim Lambert, Texas Home School Coalition; Margaret McGettrick, Catholic Bishops of Texas; Paul Hastings; (*Registered, but did not testify:* MerryLynn Gerstenschlager, Texas Eagle Forum; Ann Hettinger, Concerned Women of America for Texas; Roy Casanova)

Against — Mike Motheral, Texas Association of School Administrators/Sundown ISD; D.W. Rutledge, Texas High School Coaches Association; Howell Wright, Rockdale ISD, Texas Association of Community Schools; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Monty Exter, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Rebecca Flores, Houston ISD; Graham Sweeney, Texas Rural Education Association; Sam Tipton, Texas Girls Coaches Association)

On — Mark Cousins, University Interscholastic League

DIGEST: SB 1214 would require the University Interscholastic League (UIL) to allow private and parochial schools equal opportunity to participate in league activities, excluding football and basketball. The league would have to allow eligible private and parochial schools to participate in UIL-related academic activities beginning with the 2011-2012 school year,

division 1A and 2A athletic activities beginning the spring of the 2011-2012 school year, division 3A athletic activities beginning the 2012-2013 school year, division 4A athletic activities beginning the 2013-2014 school year, and division 5A athletic activities beginning the 2014-2015 school year.

To become a member of the league, a private and parochial school would have to be accredited, not have had its eligibility from a similar organization revoked or suspended in the previous five years, offer a four-year curriculum, require daily attendance at the school's location, and offer interscholastic competition. The UIL could not require additional requirements of these schools beyond what was required of public schools.

The UIL would have to establish rules to prevent private and parochial schools from recruiting students for the purpose of participating in league activities.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2011.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

Private and parochial schools currently are able to apply for membership into the UIL, but regulations governing their eligibility are so stringent that very few schools can participate. Requirements that these schools not be members of other similar organizations often prohibit them from joining the league. These restrictions are unfair to private and parochial school students, especially when UIL activities have been shown to boost academic test scores and help with college admissions.

SB 1214 would recognize that equal opportunities for private and parochial schools would give these schools the ability to recruit certain students. Therefore, it would specifically require the league to implement rules that would prohibit this practice.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

SB 1214 would encourage private and parochial schools to recruit students based on their prospective participation in UIL activities. These schools would, therefore, have an unfair advantage over public schools in league activities.

NOTES: The House companion bill, HB 2322 by Garza, was reported favorably, without amendment, by the House Public Education Committee on May 5.