

- SUBJECT:** UIL participation for students receiving outpatient mental health services
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Dutton, Allen, Allison, K. Bell, Bernal, Buckley, M. González, Huberty, K. King, Meza, Talarico, VanDeaver
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Lozano
- WITNESSES:** For — Hannah Meeker, Carrolton Springs Changes; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Matthew Lovitt, National Alliance on Mental Illness-Texas; Nancy Walker, Texans Care for Children; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Lee Johnson, Texas Council of Community Centers; Dan Finch, Texas Medical Association; Joanna Mejia)
- Against — None
- On — Jamey Harrison, UIL; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 33.081 requires certain limitations on participation in and practice for extracurricular activities during the school day and school week to preserve the school day for academic activities.
- Interested parties note that students who are outpatients at mental health facilities may be excluded from participating in extracurricular activities given factors related to the student's absence during instruction time while receiving outpatient services.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1080 would require the University Interscholastic League (UIL) to ensure that its rules did not exclude from eligibility for participation in a UIL activity a student who met the following criteria:

- received outpatient mental health services from a mental health facility; and
- was enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school or otherwise received public education services from a district or school.

A school district or charter school could not adopt or enforce policies that restricted participation in UIL activities based solely on the student receiving the services or on the student's absence during instructional time while receiving the services.

A student to whom the bill applied would not be exempted from any other eligibility requirement for participation in UIL activities.

The UIL would have to propose or amend rules to comply with the bill's requirements, and a school district or charter school would have to propose or amend policies to comply with the bill's requirements as soon as practicable after the effective date of the bill.

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, 2021.