

SUBJECT: Regulating the application of enrollment formula to UIL classification

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — Buckley, Cunningham, Cody Harris, Harrison, Hefner, Hinojosa, K. King, Longoria, Schaefer, Talarico

2 nays — Allen, Allison

1 absent — Dutton.

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Anita Scott, Texas Home School Coalition; Bryce Adams, Texas Public Charter Schools Association; Mary Elizabeth Castle, Texas Values Action; Jennifer Allmon, The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools)

On — Jamey Harrison, UIL (*Registered, but did not testify:* Eric Marin, Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency)

DIGEST: HB 699 would require the University Interscholastic League (UIL) to apply the same student enrollment calculation formula to all schools whether or not the school allowed a non-enrolled student to participate in the league activity when assigning league classification to a public school.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2023-24 school year, and 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, 2023.

SUPPORTERS SAY: In 2021, the 87th legislature passed HB 547, which provided for the participation of home-schooled students in UIL activities. The competition committee for UIL, responsible for adopting rules to implement this law, approved a rule that would alter a school's UIL

classification if the school chose to provide homeschoolers access to UIL activities. Though the rule was vetoed, such regulations could have discouraged districts from opening their teams to home school students. HB 699 would serve to clarify legislative intent by ensuring that such measures were statutorily prohibited, reducing possible disincentives for school districts, and expanding opportunities for home school students to participate on competitive teams.

CRITICS
SAY:

HB 699 should allow home school students participating in a public school's sports teams to be counted towards a school's overall enrollment. While the number of home school students involved in a school's UIL activities may not be enough to alter the school's classification, the use of district resources by a home school student should in some manner be reflected in the school's enrollment.

OTHER
CRITICS
SAY:

With the failure of the competition committee's proposed rule, UIL's classification practice is presently the same as that described in the bill. If the bill was passed, it would not change UIL's current process for classifying schools.