



## HOUSE BILL 776 - UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- SB 776 relates to the creation of an inclusive sports program by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) to provide students with disabilities greater access to team sports.
- Cited as “Zariah’s Law”.
- Authored by Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (Brownsville District 27).
- UIL ensures all students with disabilities can participate in team athletic activities.
- Adaptive sports are competitive and run parallel to typical sports activities, providing the needed modifications necessary to participate effectively. Athletes with disabilities are now given an even playing field.
  - Effective Sept 1, 2021. The proposed House Bill is HB 2193 and approved on 4/29/21 with a unanimous vote.

WHAT TO EXPECT	WHAT TO EXPECT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Equitable recognition of athletic events for <u>all students</u>.</li> <li>▪ Adapted sports would subject students with disabilities to the same rules and requirements as other UIL programs.</li> <li>▪ Team practices, seasonal play, and local and statewide competitions would meet UIL standards.</li> <li>▪ Adapted sports will be available in public middle, junior high, and high school students in Texas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UIL will provide federal guidance, guidance from nationally recognized organizations, information regarding the programs, and input from school districts and the Texas Education Agency (TEA).</li> <li>▪ Plans are in place to coordinate with Texas Special Olympics.</li> <li>▪ Supporters of the bill include Down by the Border, UT Austin Disability Advocacy Student Coalition, Disability Rights Texas, Texas Parent to Parent and Coalition of Texans with Disabilities.</li> </ul>

*References:*

SB 776 complete bill: <https://legiscan.com/TX/text/SB776/id/2403723>