<u>Proposed Amendment to the</u> University Interscholastic League Constitution & Contest Rules

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment

This proposal would add Robotics Education & Competition Foundation (RECF) competition to the UIL Robotics program.

B. <u>Factual and Policy Justifications</u>

Robotics participation continues to grow, with more than half of UIL member high schools indicating yes on Robotics participation during the last reclassification and realignment process. As program growth continues, it is desirable to provide diverse options to serve the widest range of schools with different needs and circumstances. The pilot of RECF Robotics authorized by the Council has proved successful. The 2023 state championship event included more than 80 teams representing more than 50 UIL member schools from across the state. Pilot state championships were awarded in conferences 6A, 5A, 4A, and 3A and below.

C. Proposed Amendment

The *UIL Robotics Handbook* will be amended to incorporate RECF-VEX Division that will culminate in a state championship event, with Academics championship points to be awarded using the same criteria as other UIL Robotics contests, at the state level only.

D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools

School districts would choose whether to participate. For those that participate, there would be costs for registration and equipment, as well as travel to a qualifying event and to the state event for teams that qualify. Significant grant funds are available that can help mitigate costs.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2024.