

- SUBJECT:** Requiring the use of a student's legal surname in a public school
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Sadler, Dunnam, Grusendorf, Hardcastle, Hochberg, Oliveira, Olivo, Smith
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Dutton
- WITNESSES:** For — Tom Leyden, Texas Association of Secondary School Principals; Lico Reyes
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code, ch. 25.002 sets forth the requirements for enrolling a child in public school. A parent enrolling a student is required to present legal documentation of the child's identity. A student's name is used for attendance, immunization, and other records. If a child is enrolled under a name other than the name on the child's identifying documents, the school district must notify the missing children and missing persons information clearinghouse. The information in the notice is confidential and only can be released to a law enforcement agency.
- Occasionally, a parent will ask the school to identify a student by a name other than the student's legal name. As a result, the school may become involved in a family dispute that has nothing to do with educating the student.
- DIGEST:** HB 1276 would amend Chapter 25 by adding sec. 25.0021 to require each public school to identify a student by their legal surname as that name appears on:
- ! the student's birth certificate or other document suitable to prove the student's identity; or
  - ! a court order changing the student's name.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2001-2002 academic school year.

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, 2001.