

**SUBJECT:** Prohibiting release of school district employees' social security numbers

**COMMITTEE:** Government Efficiency and Reform — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 6 ayes — Harper-Brown, Perry, Capriglione, Stephenson, Scott Turner, Vo  
0 nays  
1 absent — Taylor

**WITNESSES:** For — Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association  
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Ted Melina Raab, Texas AFT; Josh Sanderson; Association of Texas Professional Educators)  
  
Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Government Code, sec. 552.024 allows government employees to choose whether to allow their employers to publically release the employee's home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, social security number, or whether a person has family members.

**DIGEST:** HB 2961 would make confidential an employee's social security number in the custody of a school district. It would prohibit a school district from requiring an employee to choose whether to allow public access to the social security number of the employee or former employee. The bill would require school districts to develop policies prohibiting the use of social security numbers as employee identifiers for any reason other than tax purposes.  
  
The bill would take effect September 1, 2013.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 2961 would make it clear that a social security number belonging to an employee of a school district could not be used for anything other than tax purposes. The bill would strengthen protection for school district employees from districts who were failing to protect employee privacy.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

HB 2961 is unnecessary. Government employees, including school district employees, are currently protected from the release of certain personal information, including social security numbers, without the employee's permission.