

- SUBJECT:** Requiring sex offenders who enter school premises to notify officials
- COMMITTEE:** Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Moody, Hunter, Gervin-Hawkins, Hefner, Lang, Wilson  
0 nays  
1 absent — Canales
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Tiana Sanford, Montgomery County District Attorney's Office; Monty Wynn, Texas Municipal League; Kyle Ward, Texas Parent Teacher Association; Thomas Parkinson)  
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Code of Criminal Procedure, ch. 62 governs the state's sex offender registration program.
- DIGEST:** HB 2575 would require individuals who must register as sex offenders to report their presence immediately to the administrative office upon entering a school's premises during standard operating hours. The school office could provide a chaperone while the person was on the premises.
- The notification requirement would exist in addition to any requirement associated with the imposition of a child safety zone on a person as a condition of parole, mandatory supervision, or community supervision. It would not apply to an enrolled student or a student from another school participating in a school event.
- Prior to the release of a person subject to sex offender registration into the community, and before the person had registered, the bill would require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or the Texas Juvenile Justice Department to notify the person of his or her duty to notify a school's administrative office immediately upon entering the premises.

A local law enforcement authority designated as a person's primary registration authority that provides the person with a verification form would have to include with it a statement and/or description of that person's duty to provide notice upon entering a school.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017, and would apply to all offenders required to register, regardless of the date of the offense.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

HB 2575 would give schools a stronger enforcement mechanism to contain individuals who are not currently deterred by existing laws that protect children from sex offenders. The bill would allow for immediate corrective action if the individual entered a campus without notifying the administration. Giving school officials and law enforcement more information about the nature of certain people trying to enter Texas schools would better protect the public.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

HB 2575 would place an unnecessary and degrading burden on anyone who must register as a sex offender, without any inquiry as to the circumstances of the offense involved or any subsequent rehabilitation on the part of the individual. It also would be unnecessary because any person entering a school must make himself or herself known to the administration, regardless of criminal history.