



COMBINED LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS OF TEXAS

A GREATER FORCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS

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May 17, 2007

Senate Education Committee:

According to the compulsory attendance section of the Texas Education Code, students who are enrolled in public education are to be in the classroom during normal school hours. Yet on a daily basis across the state, students make the choice to skip school

Under the current law, if a student is absent from school and there is no daytime curfew city ordinance in place, that student cannot legally be taken into custody and transported back to their appropriate campus. Instead, a law enforcement officer must have his or her police dispatcher take time away from answering telephone calls and 911 calls to contact the student's parent or guardian and request permission to transport that student back to school. In order to comply with Section 25.085 of the Education Code, law enforcement should not have to ask or request permission to transport a student back to school in the same way school attendance offices do now under Section 25.091 of the Education Code.

HB 2237 by Rep. Eissler allows law enforcement to effectively do their job without having to ask for permission to take students back in school. The goal of this bill is to not only make it easier and less complicated for law enforcement officers to do their jobs, but will also keep young people safe and help them stay in school and away from the negative influences and choices that will get them into trouble.

I had the honor of testifying before the House Education Committee on April 10, 2007 on HB 2409 and the bill was unanimously voted out of committee by a 9-0 record vote. Rep. Eissler has also seen the importance of this bill and so amended HB 2237 with HB 2409.

I ask you to see the importance of this amendment and leave it in HB 2237 as written.

Sincerely,

Detective David Kohler
Pflugerville Police Department
CLEAT Executive Board

