

TITLE:	Notes on SB1067
REVISION:	2007.03.21.004
AUTHOR:	Caldwell, Sam (512.963.7805,mail@samcaldwell.us)
DATE:	21 March 2007

SUMMARY:

The author supports this bill in part as it may help educators work with the supervising authorities to whom a registered juvenile offender reports to produce a positive result. However, the author does not support other provisions of this bill which could counter the otherwise positive outcome.

SUPPORTED PROVISIONS:

1. The bill [SECTION 2] would amend Articles 15.27(d), Code of Criminal Procedure as follows:

On receiving notice under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, that a student who is required to register as a sex offender is enrolled in the district, the superintendent or a person designated by the superintendent shall within 24 hours notify all instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with the student.

This provision would give educators the information necessary to observe and alert supervising authorities and/or treatment providers when problems arise. Where necessary, this could enable educators and supervising authorities to promote a consistent supportive environment for the offender, leading to a positive outcome for society

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provision also include the name and contact information for the offender's supervising authority and/or treatment provider. Such an amendment would give educators the necessary resources to ask questions, coordinate interventions and otherwise take a proactive role in the protection of their institutions and themselves.

2. The bill [SECTION 1] amends Subchapter A, Chapter 25, Education Code by adding Section 25.0012 to require the removal of registered sex offenders from normal classrooms without considering the merits of each case. Effectively this eliminates the discretion of the supervising authorities and/or treatment providers and presents a significant possibility that certain classes of juvenile offenders will be placed in environments where they will learn new negative behaviors and escalate along the criminal chain.

Creating a law which states that-

a student may not enroll at a public school campus if the student is required to register as a sex offender under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure

and instead the child-offender-

shall enroll in a disciplinary alternative education program under Section 37.008 or a juvenile justice

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or the child-offender. In fact, such provisions are likely to remove offenders who act out due to poor social development from public schools and inject them into environments where their new peer group will teach them new and more destructive behaviors.