

HCS HB 1016 -- SEXUAL OFFENDERS

SPONSOR: Shawan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

Currently, certain sexual offenders may be present within 500 feet of certain school property if they have permission from the school's superintendent or the school board. This bill specifies that they must receive permission from the school board which must seek input and advice from the local law enforcement agency as defined in the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that many times a superintendent or school board may only see one side of an individual and that law enforcement may have a bigger picture, and that the exception is helpful in that not everyone on the sex offender registry is necessarily a threat to children.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Shawan and Richard Stephens.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say this could potentially defer liability if they chose to allow an offender to attend a school event.

Testifying on the bill was the School Administrators Coalition.