

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 324  
By: Murr  
Criminal Jurisprudence  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

It has been suggested that there is ambiguity in what constitutes an improper relationship between an educator and a student. H.B. 324 seeks to clarify the definition of sexual contact for such purposes in an effort to better enable the prosecution of educators who engage in such a relationship.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

H.B. 324 amends the Penal Code to define "sexual contact," as that term relates to an offense of improper relationship between an educator and a student, as the following acts, if committed with the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person:

- any touching by an employee of a public or private primary or secondary school of the anus, breast, or any part of the genitals of a person enrolled in such a school; or
- any touching of any part of the body of a person enrolled in a public or private primary or secondary school with the anus, breast, or any part of the genitals of an employee of such a school.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2019.