

- SUBJECT:** Developing an Internet safety instruction program
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Eissler, Branch, Delisi, Hochberg, Olivo, Patrick
0 nays
3 absent — Zedler, Dutton, Mowery
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, March 28 — 30-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Ramiro Canales, Texas Association of School Administrators; Holly Eaton, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Dwight Harris, Texas Federation of Teachers; Elena Lincoln, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Shana R. Weisfeld, Texas State Teachers Association)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Dave Williams, Texas School Safety Center)
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas School Safety Center was created in 1999 and authorized by the legislature in 2001 to serve as a central location for school safety information, including research, training and technical assistance related to successful school safety programs and as a resource for the prevention of youth violence and the promotion of school safety in the state.
- DIGEST:** SB 136 would require the Texas School Safety Center, in cooperation with the attorney general as soon as practicable after the effective date of the bill, to develop a program to provide instruction about Internet safety, including information relating to:
- the potential dangers of allowing personal information to appear on an Internet website;
 - the manner in which to report an inappropriate online solicitation;

and

- the prevention, detection, and reporting of bullying or threats occurring over the Internet.

In developing the program, the center would have to solicit input from interested stakeholders and, to the extent possible, draw from existing resources and programs. The program must be made available to public schools.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2007.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

SB 136 would build on the work the Attorney General's Office is doing to combat solicitation of minors over the Internet by requiring the Texas School Safety Center to develop an Internet safety program. School districts could use this program to train students about the appropriate use of the Internet and how to recognize potential criminal activity. The program would not draw from existing resources, and the Center would work closely with the Attorney General's Office to develop appropriate resources.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.