

- SUBJECT:** Creating a teen dating violence court program
- COMMITTEE:** Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Jackson, Lewis, Bohac, Castro, Hartnett, Madden, Raymond, Scott, Thompson, Woolley
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — S. Davis
- WITNESSES:** For — Mary Lowry, Texas Council on Family Violence; (*Registered, but did not testify*: John Dahill, Texas Conference of Urban Counties; Amanda Vining, Texans Care for Children; Julie Oliver)
- Against — None
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2496 would create a teen dating violence court program, a 12-week program designed to educate teens and encourage them to refrain from dating violence. It also would provide counseling and referrals and explain the juvenile justice system to teen dating violence victims. Before implementation, the program would have to be approved by the court and county commissioners court.
- On the recommendation of the prosecuting attorney, CSHB 2496 would allow a court to defer adjudication proceedings for a first-time offender who violated a misdemeanor level dating violence offense. That child would be required to complete the teen dating violence court program and make a court appearance once a month. If the child proved his or her successful completion of the program, the court would dismiss the case with prejudice.
- A court could charge a child participating in a teen dating violence court program a fee up to \$10 to for administrative costs. The court could charge an additional \$10 for programmatic costs.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2011, and would apply only to conduct violating a penal law on or after the effective date.