

SUBJECT: Adding the offense of stalking to the Texas Crime Information Center

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security & Public Safety — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Guillen, Jarvis Johnson, Bowers, Goodwin, Harless, Holland
0 nays
3 absent — Canales, Dorazio, Troxclair

WITNESSES: For — M Paige Williams, Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot (*Registered, but did not testify*; Jennifer Szimanski, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT); James Parnell, Dallas Police Association; David Batton, Harris County Deputies' Organization FOP 39; Jessica Anderson, Houston Police Department; Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers' Union; James Smith, San Antonio Police Department; Carlos Ortiz, San Antonio Police Officers Association; Esmeralda Flores, Texas Council on Family Violence; Dallas Reed, Texas Municipal Police Association; Jose Escribano, Travis County Constable Precinct 3; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: The Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC) is the statewide law enforcement database maintained by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). In 2021, the 87th Legislature enacted HB 766, which required that conditions imposed on a defendant's bond for certain violent crimes were entered into TCIC and notice was given to law enforcement and the victim of the offense.

DIGEST: HB 767 would add stalking to the list of offenses for which a bond notification was released from the TCIC database.

The bill would go into effect September 1, 2023.

SUPPORTERS HB 767 would protect stalking victims by notifying them when an

SAY: offender was released on bond. Conditions of bond are often imposed to restrict the offender from coming into contact with the victim or going to certain locations. Sharing this information would give law enforcement more tools to help protect victims and be aware of threats that could be posed by offenders out on bond. This requirement also could help reduce the likelihood of an offender retaliating and would give victims of stalking a greater sense of safety.

CRITICS
SAY: No concerns identified.