

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2516
By: Chavez (Whitmire)
Criminal Justice
5-17-97
Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, subsections of the disorderly conduct statute, Section 42.01, Penal Code, prohibit a person from looking into dwellings, hotels and similar establishments for a lewd or unlawful purpose. However, these provisions do not apply to other locations such as schools, gymnasiums, and health clubs. H.B. 2516 would render it unlawful for a person to look into a public restroom, shower stall or changing or dressing room for a lewd and unlawful purpose.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 2516 outlines provisions regarding the prosecution and punishment of the offense of disorderly conduct.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 42.01(a) and (d), Penal Code, to provide that a person commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly, among other actions, looks into an area such as a restroom or shower stall or a changing or dressing room that is designed to provide privacy to a person using the area for an unlawful purpose while on the premises of a public place. Provides that an offense under this section is a Class C or B misdemeanor, except that an offense regarding looking into an area for a lewd or unlawful purpose is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.