

Training educators to carry concealed handguns on school premises

SB 17 by Patrick (Fletcher)

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

DIGEST: SB 17 would have created a safety training program for school employees licensed to carry concealed handguns. Authorized and trained employees could have carried concealed weapons at schools and certain interscholastic events.

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center at Texas State University would have developed the training program. Each school campus that did not have security personnel or a full-time commissioned peace officer could have sent two employees for training at no charge.

The bill would have allowed DPS to solicit donations to fund the program. Any additional state funds for training could not have exceeded \$1 million per fiscal biennium.

GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO: “A safe, secure learning environment is essential to all Texas students. To provide adequate security, we must ensure school safety planning and preparation for all levels of emergencies and threats.

“SB 17 falls short of clearly expressing the role armed school employees would play during times of crisis and emergencies and the qualifications and standards they would have to meet, fails to address secure weapon storage, and carries a \$10 million fiscal note.

“I have signed HB 1009 and SB 1857, which take a far more measured approach to school safety, and do not impose a large fiscal burden on taxpayers.”

RESPONSE: **Sen. Dan Patrick**, the bill’s author, had no comment on the veto.

Rep. Allen Fletcher, the House sponsor, said: “I respect Gov. Perry’s decision to veto SB 17. HB 1009, a similar bill authored by Rep. Villalba which I joint-authored, did pass and was signed into law by the governor. The purpose of SB 17 was to give school districts without a police presence an additional option and program to allow faculty members to carry a concealed weapon in the classroom upon completing an additional training course. I believe with the passage of either bill, classrooms will be a safer place. I am proud to have supported HB 1009 and grateful that it was signed into law.”

NOTES: The HRO analysis of [SB 17](#) appeared in the May 20 *Daily Floor Report*.