

SCHOOL SAFETY

SB34 – An Act to establish and modify provisions related to school safety

Senate Education Committee
Sen. Brent "B.R." Hoffman

Introduction

- ✓ Bill development
- ✓ Background and statistics
- ✓ Main bill provisions
- ✓ Other Considerations

Bill Development

- ✓ Another School Shooting
- ✓ Constituent Concerns
- ✓ Team of legislators, law enforcement and educators
- ✓ Pros and Cons

Background and Statistics

- **School Shootings**
 - About 500 shootings since 2000
 - Statistics, characteristics and threats
 - Reactionary nature of state-level policies
- **School safety posture**
 - Survey data, positives and negatives, concerns
- **Best practices and lessons learned**

SB34

Main Bill Provisions

1. Control Access
Section 6

2. Reporting Concerns
Section 7

3. Armed Response
Sections 2-5 and 8-9

Considerations

- ❑ *We all recognize school safety should be a high priority*
- ❑ *The threat of school shootings is unpredictable and uncomfortable*
- ❑ *There is no perfect non-controversial solution to the threat*
- *There are opposing arguments such as local control, funding, priorities and prevention.*

Summary

- ✓ Development, Background and Statistics
- ✓ Three Main Provisions of the Bill
- ✓ Standby for Rebuttal and Questions

Request Do Pass and/or Referral

Local Control

“Local control: A term used to describe the legal powers of local governments (e.g., cities and counties) to create regulations. Zoning codes and other land use regulations are arguably the most conspicuous and universal forms of local control”

- Not to be confused with federalist principle in 10th Amendment
- Not a principle but a catchphrase or slogan
- Inconsistently referenced and applied

Funding

“This bill would break the bank...extremely difficult to fund”

“So many other things we should spend our money on, put it to other uses”

“We’re already underfunded and will have to take from other priorities”

“We really don’t know what it costs, lacks specifics, not in budget”

Specific coordinated estimates and appropriation line item

A. Reporting B. Access C. Response (SRO & Sentinel)

With 136,000 students per ADM, a cost of \$8-10 per student

A question of prioritization (examples)

Academic Environment

“You could end up with innocent gun-toting citizens shooting other innocent citizens”

“When schools each become like a Fort Knox...”

“Moves towards making schools armed camps”

“This guy wants to make our schools like prisons. We should buy more books, not guns.”

- Kids are in school to learn
- Kids (and their parents) must know they are safe to learn
- Safety need not be obtrusive, distracting or obvious
- Safety will be a little uncomfortable or inconvenient

“The safety of our students is always our highest priority”

Dr. Wade Pogany, ASBSD

Prevention

“Put focus on mental health and prevention”

“We need to hire more counselors, not more guards”

“We should address the underlying causes”

- Two of three main provisions are prevention-focused
- Mental Health is serious issue but won't be solved by any bill
- Policy should be both preventative and proactive