

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 2223  
By: Krusee  
Law Enforcement  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Under current law, a juvenile who engages in terroristic threats, false alarms, or hoax bombs does not face penalties related to his or her driver's license. However, a bomb threat incurs incredible costs in time, money, and emotional stress for students, administration, and the community as a whole. A drivers' license is a very valuable acquisition to most teenagers, and establishing penalties related to driver's licenses would help reinforce the seriousness of the these offenses. House Bill 2223 increases the penalties for a person who engages in terroristic threats, false alarms, or hoax bombs to include the suspension of a driver's license, denial of the issuance of a driver's license, and denial of an application for reinstatement of a driver's license.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. House Bill 2223 amends Section 54.042 of the Family Code by including violations of Sections 22.07, 42.06, and 46.08 of the Penal Code, which deal with terroristic threats, false alarms, and hoax bombs respectively. If a juvenile court finds that a child has engaged in conduct that violates any of these statutes, it can suspend a child's driver's license or permit, or deny the issuance of a license or permit, for a period not to exceed 365 days. If the child had previously been adjudicated as violating these statutes, the suspension or denial of a driver's license or permit can last until the child's nineteenth birthday.

SECTION 2. House Bill 2223 amends Section 521.320 of the Transportation Code by adding "Or Terrorist Activity" to the heading of this section.

SECTION 3. House Bill 2223 amends Section 521.320 of the Transportation Code by authorizing a court to order the suspension of a person's drivers license or to deny an application for reinstatement or issuance of a driver's license if a person is convicted of a violation under Sections 22.07, 42.06, or 46.08 of the Penal Code.

SECTION 4. House Bill 2223 applies only to an offense committed or, for the purposes of Title 3, Family Code, to conduct that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense is committed on or after the effective date of this Act if every element of the offense occurs on or after the effective date.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.