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**Senator Bettencourt Unanimously Passes Another Major Bill To Protect Private School Students**  
*SB1256 is a major piece of the pack to expand protections that public schools have to private schools*  
*Follows up on SB7, the inappropriate student teacher relationship bill from last session*

**Austin, Texas** - Another major step in education reform, Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) unanimously passed SB 1256 out of the Texas Senate that will create a Do-Not-Hire registry and continue to elaborate on legislation to protect private school students in Texas. Expanding on Senate Bill 7 from the 85th Legislative session, which protected public schools from inappropriate student/teacher relationships, Senator Bettencourt filed a pack of legislation to expand those protections to private schools as well. The bipartisan legislation, SB1256 passed by a vote of 31-0 and moves onto the Texas House.

**"We have to protect our students from this type of aggressive behavior,"** said Senator Bettencourt. **"SB1256 will stop 'passing the trash' from public schools to private schools and instead 'take out the trash' permanently, so our students will all be protected from sexual predators,"** he added.

Senate Bill 1256 would create a similar process for non-certified persons from Superintendent to custodians who engage in misconduct with students. This bill would require a Do Not Hire Registry for persons who may not be employed by public or private schools. SB 1256 ensures students are protected from this types of acts by the following provisions:

- Ensuring that non-certified persons who have engaged in unlawful acts or solicited or engaged in romantic relationships with students or minors are terminated from public or private schools.
- Creating a registry for non-certified persons who may not be employed by public or private schools.
- Prohibiting public or private schools from employing people who, after due process, have been placed on a registry prohibiting employment.
- Creating the same superintendent reporting requirements for non-certified employees that currently exist for certified employees and adds principals to the reporting requirements.

**"Inappropriate relationships between students and educators must be fleshed out. We're talking about the safety of our kids. We cannot afford to turn a blind eye or sweep these issues under the rug anymore,"** said Bettencourt. **"This next legislative step will result in a safer learning environment for ALL students in the Texas education system,"** he added.

SB1256 affords all students in Texas schools protection from all school employees who have been found to have engaged in an unlawful act or other misconduct with a student. This bill is included in a larger package of education reform bills including SB933, SB1230, SB1231, and SB1476 by Senator Bettencourt that are moving through the Texas Senate.

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