



Comcast
Call now offer ends soon!
800.COMCAST

HIGH SPEED CABLE \$19.95 per month for 6 months!
INTERNET only \$4.95 Installation

June 14, 2003

- Home Menu
- Local News
- Sports
- Business
- ClassifiedCenter

- Columnists
- Education
- Entertainment
- Health/Science
- Nation | World
- Opinion/Letters
- Photography
- Religion
- Special Reports
- Texas Living
- Texas | Politics
- Travel | Food
- Weather
- Corrections

ClassifiedCenter

Local ads from the paper and more!

- HomeCenter
- Cars.com
- JobCenter
- DatingCenter
- TicketCenter
- Other categories

- Marketplace
- Newspaper ads
- New! Photo Store
- Front Page Store
- News Archive
- Services for newspaper subscribers
- Calling on America

My DallasNews.com

- Register
- Account information
- My-Cast Weather
- My-NetLink ISP
- My Specials Direct
- Make this my home page
- My newsletters

Texas/Southwest

Texas Legislature

Media groups call on Perry to veto criminal records bill

06/12/2003

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Media groups have called on Gov. Rick Perry to veto a bill that allows criminal records to be sealed in some deferred adjudication cases.

The Texas Association of Broadcasters said Thursday it joined the Radio Television News Directors Association and the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas in asking Perry to veto the bill sponsored by Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas.

The TAB said the bill would allow individuals who complete deferred adjudication for some crimes — both misdemeanors and felonies — to ask a court to have their criminal records sealed from the public. Only law enforcement, prosecutors and school districts would have access to the records.

The bill excludes anyone convicted or placed on deferred adjudication for several violent crimes, such as murder, kidnapping and sex offenses.

West did not immediately return a telephone message left at his law office. Perry spokesman Gene Acuna said the bill was under review. Perry can sign or veto the bill or let it become law without his signature.

The media critics said the bill would prevent employers from learning about the criminal history of potential workers, such as a day care center considering hiring someone who would work closely with children. By having the records sealed, someone could lie on a job application that asks them to disclose their criminal history, the TAB said.

"Employers have a right to know about the past behavior of potential workers," said Paul Watler, a Dallas attorney and member of the TAB's Open Government Task Force.

"The public should retain the right to obtain arrest records for public officials and citizens who exhibit a pattern of criminal behavior," Watler said.

The deferred adjudication bill is SB 1477.

(ap.state.online.tx 0113 06/12/2003 18:26:04)

Search



- DallasNews.com
- The Archives

Looking for a home?

- Contact Us
- Terms
- Privacy
- Advertising
- Site Map
- About Us

©2003 Belo Interactive

Dallas Web Sites: WFAA.com | TXCN.com | GuideLive.com | Community

This site is best viewed with Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher.