

A House committee has passed legislation that would create a list of people required to notify authorities if they believe there is a serious threat to a school. The bill also makes it a misdemeanor if someone fails to report a perceived threat.

The House Judiciary Committee heard testimony on Thursday on the bill's behalf.

According to Kristi Bennett, with the Texarkana Arkansas Police Department, the department has a "See Something, Say Something" campaign and appointed an officer to be in charge of responding to complaints from residents concerning potential school threats. Bennett said in many cases police learn about threats days or even weeks after they occur.

**Mandated Reporter Bill CC :17 "...is understandable"  
"Many of these employees, school administration and clergy members said that often times they were fearful of reporting because of the light of the media and what it could do to their reputation, which is understandable."**

The bill protects those who contact law enforcement in good faith, believing there is a possible threat, from civil or criminal liability. However, anyone who knowingly makes a false report could be charged with a Class D felony.

The committee approved of the bill by a voice vote.