



State Senator
James R. Baumgart

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM - Public Hearing - March 5, 2002, ROOM
411 SOUTH**

SENATE BILL 462, Relating to juvenile court dispositions for a juvenile who is found to have made a bomb scare or a biological or chemical substance scare involving a school premises or to have possessed or discharged a firearm in a school zone.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR JIM BAUMGART, Author

Thank you, for holding this public hearing and allowing me to testify before you.

Senate Bill 462 simply takes penalties that judges may already impose on juveniles and directs them to specifically consider a few that I felt particularly effective for our youth. Those penalties include participation in anger management counseling, performing community service and finally restricting or suspending the juvenile's driver's license. This final penalty would only be available if a vehicle was used to facilitate the commission of the act. These penalties are not limiting. Judges may impose any penalty available to them, this bill simply makes some recommendations that we feel will be most effective.

This is a simple bill designed to combat a serious problem. We are all too aware of the threats that our school districts face every day. Our students live with a constant threat of violence, be it guns in our schools or bomb threats. Now with the whole country fearing terrorism, it is likely that our schools will have to endure threats of Anthrax or the threat of other chemical releases. We must give our school administrators the tools they need to protect our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Senate Bill 462.

"As stewards for this and future generations, we must use the land wisely." - Jim Baumgart

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