



## **Office of State Representative Tommy Merritt**

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### **Merritt Joint Authors House Bill 2340 to Address Cases of Sexual Abuse at TYC Facilities**

AUSTIN—State Representative Tommy Merritt (R-Longview), a former federal law enforcement official, joint authored a bill today to place the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) into a conservatorship immediately and strengthen the power of the conservator to address the sex abuse scandals at TYC facilities instead of waiting for Governor Rick Perry to take action.

"This is a bi-partisan effort to immediately address the sex abuse scandals and bypass the government red tape. The horrendous allegations require urgent action and provide assurance a criminal investigation will be conducted," said Rep. Merritt.

The Texas Senate passed a simple resolution earlier in the week calling for the Legislative Audit Committee to recommend the Governor place the commission into a conservatorship on the condition that sufficient wrongdoing is found. HB 2340 bypasses this middle step and places the commission under a conservatorship immediately.

HB 2340 ensures that regardless of the possibility of fiscal mismanagement involved in this case, the heinous nature of the abuse is fully reviewed and the general mismanagement of the TYC is not left unaddressed.