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Panel OKs bill targeting dating sites

A Texas Senate committee approved a bill Thursday that provides a strong incentive for online dating sites to conduct criminal background checks on members.

The bill, authored by Sen. John Carona of Dallas, would force sites that do not conduct background checks to disclose that in capital letters on every Web page and e-mail between customers.

True.com, an Irving-based Internet matchmaker, is promoting the bill. True screens its users.

Match.com, a Richardson-based competitor, opposes the bill, arguing that violent, predatory online dating is an aberration.

The bill was approved on a 4-2 vote; a House version is pending in a committee.