

AN ACT

relating to the criminal punishment and conditions of community supervision for the offense of obstructing a highway or other passageway; increasing a criminal penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter K, Chapter 42A, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 42A.517 to read as follows:

Art. 42A.517. COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES INVOLVING OBSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAY OR OTHER PASSAGEWAY. A court granting community supervision to a defendant convicted of an offense punishable as a state jail felony under Section 42.03, Penal Code, shall require as a condition of community supervision that the defendant submit to not less than 10 days of confinement in a county jail.

SECTION 2. Section 42.03(c), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor, except that the offense is a state jail felony if, in committing the offense, the actor knowingly:

(1) prevents the passage of an authorized emergency vehicle, as defined by Section 541.201, Transportation Code, that is operating the vehicle's emergency audible or visual signals required by Section 546.003, Transportation Code; or

(2) obstructs access to a hospital licensed under

1 Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, or other health care facility  
2 that provides emergency medical care, as defined by Section  
3 773.003, Health and Safety Code.

4         SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
5 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
6 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
7 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
8 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
9 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
10 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred  
11 before that date.

12         SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 9 was passed by the House on May 6, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 90, Nays 55, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 9 was passed by the Senate on May 22, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 25, Nays 5.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor