

By: Geren

H.B. No. 790

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to enhancing the criminal penalties for certain repeat and
3 habitual offenders.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 12.42(a), (b), and (d), Penal Code, are
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (c)(2), if it is shown
8 on the trial of a felony of the third degree that the defendant has
9 previously been finally convicted of a felony other than a state
10 jail felony punishable under Section 12.35(a) or 12.43(b-1), on
11 conviction the defendant shall be punished for a felony of the
12 second degree.

13 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c)(2) or (c)(4), if it
14 is shown on the trial of a felony of the second degree that the
15 defendant has previously been finally convicted of a felony other
16 than a state jail felony punishable under Section 12.35(a) or
17 12.43(b-1), on conviction the defendant shall be punished for a
18 felony of the first degree.

19 (d) Except as provided by Subsection (c)(2) or (c)(4), if it
20 is shown on the trial of a felony offense other than a state jail
21 felony punishable under Section 12.35(a) or 12.43(b-1) that the
22 defendant has previously been finally convicted of two felony
23 offenses, and the second previous felony conviction is for an
24 offense that occurred subsequent to the first previous conviction

1 having become final, on conviction the defendant shall be punished
2 by imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for
3 life, or for any term of not more than 99 years or less than 25
4 years. A previous conviction for a state jail felony punishable
5 under Section [12.35\(a\)](#) or [12.43\(b-1\)](#) may not be used for
6 enhancement purposes under this subsection.

7 SECTION 2. Sections [12.42\(c\)\(1\)](#) and (5), Penal Code, are
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (1) If it is shown on the trial of a felony of the first
10 degree that the defendant has previously been finally convicted of
11 a felony other than a state jail felony punishable under Section
12 [12.35\(a\)](#) or [12.43\(b-1\)](#), on conviction the defendant shall be
13 punished by imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal
14 Justice for life, or for any term of not more than 99 years or less
15 than 15 years. In addition to imprisonment, an individual may be
16 punished by a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

17 (5) A previous conviction for a state jail felony
18 punishable under Section [12.35\(a\)](#) or [12.43\(b-1\)](#) may not be used for
19 enhancement purposes under Subdivision (2).

20 SECTION 3. Sections [12.425\(b\)](#) and (c), Penal Code, are
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (b) If it is shown on the trial of a state jail felony
23 punishable under Section [12.35\(a\)](#) that the defendant has previously
24 been finally convicted of two felonies other than a state jail
25 felony punishable under Section [12.35\(a\)](#) or [12.43\(b-1\)](#), and the
26 second previous felony conviction is for an offense that occurred
27 subsequent to the first previous conviction having become final, on

1 conviction the defendant shall be punished for a felony of the
2 second degree.

3 (c) If it is shown on the trial of a state jail felony for
4 which punishment may be enhanced under Section 12.35(c) that the
5 defendant has previously been finally convicted of a felony other
6 than a state jail felony punishable under Section 12.35(a) or
7 12.43(b-1), on conviction the defendant shall be punished for a
8 felony of the second degree.

9 SECTION 4. Section 12.43, Penal Code, is amended by
10 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as
11 follows:

12 (a) Except as provided under Subsection (b-1), if [~~if~~] it is
13 shown on the trial of a Class A misdemeanor that the defendant has
14 been previously [~~before~~] convicted of a Class A misdemeanor or any
15 degree of felony, on conviction the defendant [~~he~~] shall be
16 punished by:

- 17 (1) a fine not to exceed \$4,000;
18 (2) confinement in jail for any term of not more than
19 one year or less than 90 days; or
20 (3) both such fine and confinement.

21 (b-1) An offense that is a Class A misdemeanor is a state
22 jail felony if it is shown on the trial of the offense that:

23 (1) the defendant has been previously convicted four
24 or more times of a Class A misdemeanor or any degree of felony; and

25 (2) each of the previous offenses was committed in the
26 10-year period preceding the date of commission of the instant
27 offense.

1 SECTION 5. Article [42A.551\(d\)](#), Code of Criminal Procedure,
2 is amended to read as follows:

3 (d) On conviction of a state jail felony punished under
4 Section [12.35\(a\)](#) or [12.43\(b-1\)](#), Penal Code, other than a state jail
5 felony listed in Subsection (a), subject to Subsection (e), the
6 judge may:

7 (1) suspend the imposition of the sentence and place
8 the defendant on community supervision; or

9 (2) order the sentence to be executed:

10 (A) in whole; or

11 (B) in part, with a period of community
12 supervision to begin immediately on release of the defendant from
13 confinement.

14 SECTION 6. The change in law made by this Act applies only
15 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
16 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
17 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
18 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
19 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
20 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
21 before that date.

22 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.