

By: Meyer

H.B. No. 1140

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the statute of limitations for the offense of abandoning or endangering a child.

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

SECTION 1. Article 12.01, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 12.01. FELONIES. Except as provided in Article 12.03, felony indictments may be presented within these limits, and not afterward:

(1) no limitation:

(A) murder and manslaughter;

(B) sexual assault under Section 22.011(a)(2), Penal Code, or aggravated sexual assault under Section 22.021(a)(1)(B), Penal Code;

(C) sexual assault, if:

(i) during the investigation of the offense biological matter is collected and the matter:

(a) has not yet been subjected to forensic DNA testing; or

(b) has been subjected to forensic DNA testing and the testing results show that the matter does not match the victim or any other person whose identity is readily ascertained; or

(ii) probable cause exists to believe that

1 the defendant has committed the same or a similar sexual offense  
2 against five or more victims;

3 (D) continuous sexual abuse of young child or  
4 children under Section 21.02, Penal Code;

5 (E) indecency with a child under Section 21.11,  
6 Penal Code;

7 (F) an offense involving leaving the scene of an  
8 accident under Section 550.021, Transportation Code, if the  
9 accident resulted in the death of a person;

10 (G) trafficking of persons under Section  
11 20A.02(a)(7) or (8), Penal Code;

12 (H) continuous trafficking of persons under  
13 Section 20A.03, Penal Code; or

14 (I) compelling prostitution under Section  
15 43.05(a)(2), Penal Code;

16 (2) ten years from the date of the commission of the  
17 offense:

18 (A) theft of any estate, real, personal or mixed,  
19 by an executor, administrator, guardian or trustee, with intent to  
20 defraud any creditor, heir, legatee, ward, distributee,  
21 beneficiary or settlor of a trust interested in such estate;

22 (B) theft by a public servant of government  
23 property over which he exercises control in his official capacity;

24 (C) forgery or the uttering, using or passing of  
25 forged instruments;

26 (D) injury to an elderly or disabled individual  
27 punishable as a felony of the first degree under Section 22.04,

1 Penal Code;

2 (E) sexual assault, except as provided by  
3 Subdivision (1) or (7);

4 (F) arson;

5 (G) trafficking of persons under Section  
6 20A.02(a)(1), (2), (3), or (4), Penal Code; ~~or~~

7 (H) compelling prostitution under Section  
8 43.05(a)(1), Penal Code; or

9 (I) abandoning or endangering a child;

10 (3) seven years from the date of the commission of the  
11 offense:

12 (A) misapplication of fiduciary property or  
13 property of a financial institution;

14 (B) securing execution of document by deception;

15 (C) a felony violation under Chapter 162, Tax  
16 Code;

17 (D) false statement to obtain property or credit  
18 under Section 32.32, Penal Code;

19 (E) money laundering;

20 (F) credit card or debit card abuse under Section  
21 32.31, Penal Code;

22 (G) fraudulent use or possession of identifying  
23 information under Section 32.51, Penal Code;

24 (H) exploitation of a child, elderly individual,  
25 or disabled individual under Section 32.53, Penal Code;

26 (I) health care fraud under Section 35A.02, Penal  
27 Code; or

1 (J) bigamy under Section 25.01, Penal Code,  
2 except as provided by Subdivision (6);

3 (4) five years from the date of the commission of the  
4 offense:

5 (A) theft or robbery;

6 (B) except as provided by Subdivision (5),  
7 kidnapping or burglary;

8 (C) injury to an elderly or disabled individual  
9 that is not punishable as a felony of the first degree under Section  
10 22.04, Penal Code; or

11 (D) [~~abandoning or endangering a child; or~~

12 [~~(E)~~] insurance fraud;

13 (5) if the investigation of the offense shows that the  
14 victim is younger than 17 years of age at the time the offense is  
15 committed, 20 years from the 18th birthday of the victim of one of  
16 the following offenses:

17 (A) sexual performance by a child under Section  
18 43.25, Penal Code;

19 (B) aggravated kidnapping under Section  
20 20.04(a)(4), Penal Code, if the defendant committed the offense  
21 with the intent to violate or abuse the victim sexually; or

22 (C) burglary under Section 30.02, Penal Code, if  
23 the offense is punishable under Subsection (d) of that section and  
24 the defendant committed the offense with the intent to commit an  
25 offense described by Subdivision (1)(B) or (D) of this article or  
26 Paragraph (B) of this subdivision;

27 (6) ten years from the 18th birthday of the victim of

1 the offense:

2 (A) trafficking of persons under Section  
3 20A.02(a)(5) or (6), Penal Code;

4 (B) injury to a child under Section 22.04, Penal  
5 Code; or

6 (C) bigamy under Section 25.01, Penal Code, if  
7 the investigation of the offense shows that the person, other than  
8 the legal spouse of the defendant, whom the defendant marries or  
9 purports to marry or with whom the defendant lives under the  
10 appearance of being married is younger than 18 years of age at the  
11 time the offense is committed; or

12 (7) two years from the date the offense was  
13 discovered: sexual assault punishable as a state jail felony under  
14 Section 22.011(f)(2), Penal Code; or

15 (8) three years from the date of the commission of the  
16 offense: all other felonies.

17 SECTION 2. Article 12.01, Code of Criminal Procedure, as  
18 amended by this Act, does not apply to an offense if the prosecution  
19 of that offense becomes barred by limitation before the effective  
20 date of this Act. The prosecution of that offense remains barred as  
21 if this Act had not taken effect.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.