

By: Toth

H.B. No. 240

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the limitations period for certain criminal offenses involving dating, household, or other family violence.

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 sex offense  
2 against five or more victims;

3 (D) continuous sexual abuse of young child or  
4 disabled individual 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 the public servant exercises control in the  
24 public servant's official capacity;

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

27 (D) injury to an elderly or disabled individual

1 punishable as a felony of the first degree under Section 22.04,  
2 Penal Code;

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

5 (F) arson;

6 (G) trafficking of persons under Section  
7 20A.02(a)(1), (2), (3), or (4), Penal Code; or

8 (H) compelling prostitution under Section  
9 43.05(a)(1), Penal Code;

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) fraudulent securing of document execution;

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;

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

12 (E) insurance fraud;

13 (F) assault under Section 22.01, Penal Code, or  
14 aggravated assault under Section 22.02, Penal Code, if the assault  
15 or aggravated assault was committed against a person whose  
16 relationship to or association with the defendant is described by  
17 Section 71.0021(b), 71.003, or 71.005, Family Code; or

18 (G) continuous violence against the family under  
19 Section 25.11, Penal Code;

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

24 (A) sexual performance by a child under Section  
25 43.25, Penal Code;

26 (B) aggravated kidnapping under Section  
27 20.04(a)(4), Penal Code, if the defendant committed the offense

1 with the intent to violate or abuse the victim sexually; or

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

7 (6) ten years from the 18th birthday of the victim of  
8 the offense:

9 (A) trafficking of persons under Section  
10 20A.02(a)(5) or (6), Penal Code;

11 (B) injury to a child under Section 22.04, Penal  
12 Code; or

13 (C) bigamy under Section 25.01, Penal Code, if  
14 the investigation of the offense shows that the person, other than  
15 the legal spouse of the defendant, whom the defendant marries or  
16 purports to marry or with whom the defendant lives under the  
17 appearance of being married is younger than 18 years of age at the  
18 time the offense is committed;

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

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

24 SECTION 2. Article 12.02, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 Art. 12.02. MISDEMEANORS. (a) Except as provided by  
27 Subsection (b), the following charging instruments may be presented

1 within two years from the date of the commission of the offense, and  
2 not afterward:

3 (1) an [An] indictment or information for any Class A  
4 or Class B misdemeanor; and

5 (2) a [may be presented within two years from the date  
6 of the commission of the offense, and not afterward.

7 [(b) A] complaint or information for any Class C  
8 misdemeanor.

9 (b) An indictment, information, or complaint, as  
10 applicable, for assault under Section 22.01, Penal Code, may be  
11 presented within three [two] years from the date of the commission  
12 of the offense, and not afterward, if the offense:

13 (1) is punishable as a misdemeanor; and

14 (2) was committed against a person whose relationship  
15 to or association with the defendant is described by Section  
16 71.0021(b), 71.003, or 71.005, Family Code.

17 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act does not apply  
18 to an offense if the prosecution of that offense becomes barred by  
19 limitation before the effective date of this Act. The prosecution  
20 of that offense remains barred as if this Act had not taken effect.

21 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.