

By: Jones of Harris

H.B. No. 476

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the release of certain defendants detained in jail pending trial.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 17, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 17.1511 to read as follows:

Art. 17.1511. RELEASE OF DEFENDANT DETAINED LONGER THAN POTENTIAL PUNISHMENT. Notwithstanding any other law, a defendant may not be detained in jail pending trial for a cumulative period that exceeds the maximum term of confinement that may be imposed on conviction of the offense of which the defendant is accused.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a person who is arrested on or after the effective date of this Act. A person arrested before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the person was arrested, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.