

By: Ordaz

H.B. No. 1203

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the prosecution of the offense of cruelty to nonlivestock animals.

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

SECTION 1. Section 42.092(b), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally, knowingly, ~~or~~ recklessly, or with criminal negligence:

(1) tortures an animal or in a cruel manner kills or causes serious bodily injury to an animal;

(2) without the owner's effective consent, kills, administers poison to, or causes serious bodily injury to an animal;

(3) fails unreasonably to provide necessary food, water, care, or shelter for an animal in the person's custody;

(4) abandons unreasonably an animal in the person's custody;

(5) transports or confines an animal in a cruel manner;

(6) without the owner's effective consent, causes bodily injury to an animal;

(7) causes one animal to fight with another animal, if either animal is not a dog;

(8) uses a live animal as a lure in dog race training

1 or in dog coursing on a racetrack; or

2 (9) seriously overworks an animal.

3 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
4 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
5 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
6 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
7 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
8 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
9 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
10 before that date.

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