

By: Thierry, Shaheen, Moody, Jetton, Cook,
et al.

H.B. No. 3554

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to increasing the criminal penalty for the offense of
trafficking of persons if committed at certain locations.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 20A.02(b) and (b-1), Penal Code, are
amended to read as follows:

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection and
Subsection (b-1), an offense under this section is a felony of the
second degree. An offense under this section is a felony of the
first degree if:

(1) the applicable conduct constitutes an offense
under Subsection (a)(5), (6), (7), or (8), regardless of whether
the actor knows the age of the child at the time of the offense;

(2) the commission of the offense results in the death
of the person who is trafficked; or

(3) the commission of the offense results in the death
of an unborn child of the person who is trafficked[~~, or~~

~~(4) the actor recruited, enticed, or obtained the
victim of the offense from a shelter or facility operating as a
residential treatment center that serves runaway youth, foster
children, the homeless, or persons subjected to human trafficking,
domestic violence, or sexual assault].~~

(b-1) An offense under this section is a felony of the first
degree punishable by imprisonment in the Texas Department of

1 Criminal Justice for life or for a term of not more than 99 years or
2 less than 25 years if it is shown on the trial of the offense that
3 the actor committed the offense in a location that was:

4 (1) on the premises of or within 1,000 feet of the
5 premises of:

6 (A) a school;

7 (B) a juvenile detention facility;

8 (C) a post-adjudication secure correctional
9 facility;

10 (D) a shelter or facility operating as a
11 residential treatment center that serves runaway youth, foster
12 children, people who are homeless, or persons subjected to human
13 trafficking, domestic violence, or sexual assault;

14 (E) a community center offering youth services
15 and programs; or

16 (F) a child-care facility, as defined by Section
17 [42.002](#), Human Resources Code; or

18 (2) on premises or within 1,000 feet of premises
19 where:

20 (A) an official school function was taking place;

21 or

22 (B) an event sponsored or sanctioned by the
23 University Interscholastic League was taking place.

24 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
25 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
26 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
27 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,

1 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
2 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
3 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
4 before that date.

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