

By: Rosenthal

H.B. No. 4480

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the prosecution and punishment of a criminal offense relating to making false statements or reports of child abuse or neglect.

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

SECTION 1. Section 261.107(a), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if, with the intent to deceive, the person knowingly makes a report as provided in this chapter that is false. An offense under this subsection is:

(1) a state jail felony; or

(2) [unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the person has previously been convicted under this section, in which case the offense is] a felony of the third degree if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the person:

(A) has previously been convicted under this section; or

(B) committed the offense because of bias or prejudice as described by Article 42.014, Code of Criminal Procedure.

SECTION 2. Section 261.107(a), Family Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the

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

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