

By: Schatzline

H.B. No. 2052

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to increasing the minimum term of imprisonment for the offense of trafficking of persons.

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

SECTION 1. Section 20A.02(b), Penal Code, as amended by Chapters 93 (S.B. 1527) and 452 (H.B. 3554), Acts of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, is reenacted and 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 with a minimum term of imprisonment of 15 years. An offense under this section is a felony of the first degree with a minimum term of imprisonment of 15 years 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 or whether the actor knows the victim is disabled at the time of the offense;

(2) the commission of the offense results in serious bodily injury to or 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:

(A) used or exhibited a deadly weapon during the commission of the offense; or

(B) intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly impeded the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of the trafficked person by applying pressure to the person's throat or neck or by blocking the person's nose or mouth.

SECTION 2. Section 20A.02(b-1), Penal Code, as amended by Chapters 451 (H.B. 3553) and 452 (H.B. 3554), Acts of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(b-1) An offense under this section is a felony of the first degree punishable by imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for life or for a term of not more than 99 years or less than 25 years if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the actor committed the offense in a location that was:

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

(A) a school; ~~or~~

(B) an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code;

(C) ~~[(B)]~~ a juvenile detention facility;

(D) ~~[(C)]~~ a post-adjudication secure correctional facility;

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

(F) ~~[(E)]~~ a community center offering youth

1 services and programs; or

2 (G) [~~(F)~~] a child-care facility, as defined by
3 Section 42.002, Human Resources Code; or

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

6 (A) an official school function was taking place;
7 or

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

10 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
11 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
12 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
13 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
14 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
15 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
16 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
17 before that date.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.