

By: Miller

H.B. No. 240

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the punishment for criminal mischief committed by  
3 intentionally introducing infectious diseases into livestock.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 28.03, Penal Code, is amended by adding  
6 Subsection (i) to read as follows:

7 (i) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), an offense under this  
8 section is a felony of the first degree if the property is livestock  
9 and the damage is caused by introducing bovine spongiform  
10 encephalopathy, commonly known as mad cow disease, or a disease  
11 described by Section 161.041(a), Agriculture Code. In this  
12 subsection, "livestock" has the meaning assigned by Section  
13 161.001, Agriculture Code.

14 SECTION 2. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies  
15 only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this  
16 Act. For purposes of this section, an offense is committed before  
17 the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurs  
18 before the effective date.

19 (b) An offense committed before the effective date of this  
20 Act is governed by the law in effect when the offense was committed,  
21 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.