

By: Martinez Fischer

H.B. No. 537

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the jurisdiction of a juvenile court over a person under
3 the age of 17 who races a motor vehicle on a public highway.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 729.001(a), Transportation Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) A person who is younger than 17 years of age commits an
8 offense if the person operates a motor vehicle on a public road or
9 highway, a street or alley in a municipality, or a public beach in
10 violation of any traffic law of this state, including:

11 (1) Chapter 502, other than Section 502.282 or
12 502.412;

13 (2) Chapter 521, other than an offense under Section
14 521.457;

15 (3) Subtitle C, other than an offense punishable by
16 imprisonment or by confinement in jail under Section 545.420,
17 550.021, 550.022, 550.024, or 550.025;

18 (4) Chapter 601;

19 (5) Chapter 621;

20 (6) Chapter 661; and

21 (7) Chapter 681.

22 SECTION 2. Section 51.02(16), Family Code, is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 (16) "Traffic offense" means:

1 (A) a violation of a penal statute cognizable
2 under Chapter 729, Transportation Code, except for:

3 (i) conduct constituting an offense under
4 Section 521.457, Transportation Code;

5 (ii) conduct constituting an offense under
6 Section 545.420, Transportation Code;

7 (iii) conduct constituting an offense under
8 Section 550.021, Transportation Code;

9 (iv) [~~(iii)~~] conduct constituting an
10 offense punishable as a Class B misdemeanor under Section 550.022,
11 Transportation Code;

12 (v) [~~(iv)~~] conduct constituting an offense
13 punishable as a Class B misdemeanor under Section 550.024,
14 Transportation Code; or

15 (vi) [~~(v)~~] conduct constituting an offense
16 punishable as a Class B misdemeanor under Section 550.025,
17 Transportation Code; or

18 (B) a violation of a motor vehicle traffic
19 ordinance of an incorporated city or town in this state.

20 SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies
21 only to an offense committed on or after September 1, 2005.

22 (b) An offense committed before September 1, 2005, is
23 covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the
24 former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of
25 this section, an offense was committed before September 1, 2005, if
26 any element of the offense was committed before that date.

27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.