

By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 597

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the prosecution and punishment of the offense of  
3 criminal trespass.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 30.05(b), Penal Code, is amended by  
6 adding Subdivision (8) to read as follows:

7 (8) "Residential land" means real property improved by  
8 a dwelling and zoned for or otherwise authorized for single-family  
9 or multifamily use.

10 SECTION 2. Section 30.05, Penal Code, is amended by  
11 amending Subsections (c) and (d) and adding Subsection (k) to read  
12 as follows:

13 (c) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that  
14 the actor at the time of the offense was:

15 (1) a fire fighter or emergency medical services  
16 personnel, as ~~[that term is]~~ defined by Section 773.003, Health and  
17 Safety Code, acting in the lawful discharge of an official duty  
18 under exigent circumstances; or

19 (2) an employee of an electric utility, as defined by  
20 Section 31.002, Utilities Code, or an employee of a gas utility, as  
21 defined by Section 101.003 or 121.001, Utilities Code, who was  
22 performing a duty within the scope of employment.

23 (d) An offense under Subsection (e) is a Class C misdemeanor  
24 unless it is committed in a habitation or unless the actor carries a

1 deadly weapon on or about the actor's person during the commission  
2 of the offense, in which event it is a Class A misdemeanor. An  
3 offense under Subsection (k) is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is  
4 committed in a building or habitation or unless the actor carries a  
5 deadly weapon on or about the actor's person during the commission  
6 of the offense, in which event it is a Class A misdemeanor. An  
7 offense under Subsection (a) is a Class B misdemeanor, except that  
8 the offense is a Class A misdemeanor if:

9 (1) the offense is committed:

10 (A) in a habitation or a shelter center;

11 (B) on a Superfund site; or

12 (C) on or in a critical infrastructure facility;

13 or

14 (2) the actor carries a deadly weapon on or about his  
15 person during the commission of the offense.

16 (k) A person commits an offense if without express consent  
17 or if without authorization provided by any law, whether in writing  
18 or other form, the person:

19 (1) enters or remains on residential land of another;

20 and

21 (2) had notice that the entry was forbidden or  
22 received notice to depart but failed to do so.

23 SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies  
24 only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this  
25 Act. For purposes of this section, an offense is committed before  
26 the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurs  
27 before the effective date.

1           (b) An offense committed before the effective date of this  
2 Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed,  
3 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

4           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.