

By: West

S.B. No. 977

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the punishment for human trafficking and the issuance of reports on how existing laws and programs meet the needs of trafficking victims.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (b), Section 20A.02, Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, an offense under this section is a felony of the second degree. An offense under this section is a felony of the first degree if:

(1) the offense is committed under Subsection (a)(2) and the person who is trafficked is younger than 18 [~~14~~] years of age at the time of the offense; or

(2) the commission of the offense results in the death of the person who is trafficked.

SECTION 2. (a) Not later than September 1, 2008, the attorney general, in consultation with the Health and Human Services Commission, shall issue a report:

(1) outlining how existing laws and regulations concerning victims and witnesses address the needs of victims of human trafficking; and

(2) recommending areas of improvement and modifications.

(b) Not later than September 1, 2008, the Health and Human

1 Services Commission, in consultation with the attorney general,
2 shall issue a report:

3 (1) outlining how existing social service programs
4 address or fail to address the needs of victims of human
5 trafficking;

6 (2) outlining the interplay of existing social service
7 programs with federally funded victim service programs; and

8 (3) recommending areas of improvement and
9 modifications.

10 SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act to
11 Subsection (b), Section 20A.02, Penal Code, applies only to an
12 offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. For
13 purposes of this section, an offense is committed before the
14 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurs
15 before that date.

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

19 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.