

By: Jones

H.B. No. 1472

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the offense of cruelty to nonlivestock animals.

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

SECTION 1. Section 42.092(a), Penal Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (9) to read as follows:

(9) "Harass" means to disturb, worry, molest, harr, torment, or chase.

SECTION 2. Section 42.092(e), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (b)(2) or (6) that:

(1) the animal was discovered on the person's property in the act of or after harassing, injuring, or killing the person's livestock animals or damaging the person's crops and that the person killed or injured the animal at the time of this discovery; or

(2) the person killed or injured the animal within the scope of the person's employment as a public servant or in furtherance of activities or operations associated with electricity transmission or distribution, electricity generation or operations associated with the generation of electricity, or natural gas delivery.

SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.

1 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
2 covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the
3 former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of
4 this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of
5 this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

6 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.