

AN ACT

relating to the murder of a child as a capital offense.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 19.03, Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if the person commits murder as defined under Section 19.02(b)(1) and:

(1) the person murders a peace officer or fireman who is acting in the lawful discharge of an official duty and who the person knows is a peace officer or fireman;

(2) the person intentionally commits the murder in the course of committing or attempting to commit kidnapping, burglary, robbery, aggravated sexual assault, arson, obstruction or retaliation, or terroristic threat under Section 22.07(a)(1), (3), (4), (5), or (6);

(3) the person commits the murder for remuneration or the promise of remuneration or employs another to commit the murder for remuneration or the promise of remuneration;

(4) the person commits the murder while escaping or attempting to escape from a penal institution;

(5) the person, while incarcerated in a penal institution, murders another:

(A) who is employed in the operation of the penal institution; or

1 (B) with the intent to establish, maintain, or  
2 participate in a combination or in the profits of a combination;

3 (6) the person:

4 (A) while incarcerated for an offense under this  
5 section or Section 19.02, murders another; or

6 (B) while serving a sentence of life imprisonment  
7 or a term of 99 years for an offense under Section 20.04, 22.021, or  
8 29.03, murders another;

9 (7) the person murders more than one person:

10 (A) during the same criminal transaction; or

11 (B) during different criminal transactions but  
12 the murders are committed pursuant to the same scheme or course of  
13 conduct;

14 (8) the person murders an individual under 10 [~~six~~]  
15 years of age; or

16 (9) the person murders another person in retaliation  
17 for or on account of the service or status of the other person as a  
18 judge or justice of the supreme court, the court of criminal  
19 appeals, a court of appeals, a district court, a criminal district  
20 court, a constitutional county court, a statutory county court, a  
21 justice court, or a municipal court.

22 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
23 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
24 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
25 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
26 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
27 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the

1 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred  
2 before that date.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 377 passed the Senate on March 30, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 2, one present not voting; May 25, 2011, Senate refused to concur in House amendment and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 27, 2011, House granted request of the Senate; May 28, 2011, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 377 passed the House, with amendment, on May 23, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 1, two present not voting; May 27, 2011, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 28, 2011, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 132, Nays 14, two present not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor