

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 222

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the offense of continuous violence against the family.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 25.11(a) and (b), Penal Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if, during a period that is 24 [~~12~~] months or less in duration, the person two or more times engages in conduct that constitutes an offense under Section 22.01(a)(1) against another person or persons whose relationship to or association with the defendant is described by Section 71.0021(b), 71.003, or 71.005, Family Code.

(b) If the jury is the trier of fact, members of the jury are not required to agree unanimously on the specific conduct in which the defendant engaged that constituted an offense under Section 22.01(a)(1) against the person or persons described by Subsection (a) or the exact date when that conduct occurred. The jury must agree unanimously that the defendant, during a period that is 24 [~~12~~] months or less in duration, two or more times engaged in conduct that constituted an offense under Section 22.01(a)(1) against the person or persons described by Subsection (a).

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,

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

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.