

By: Murr

H.B. No. 1594

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to increasing the punishment for contempt of court by certain juveniles in a justice or municipal court.

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

SECTION 1. Articles 45.050(b) and (c), Code of Criminal Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

(b) A justice or municipal court may not order the confinement of a child for

~~the failure to pay all or any part of a fine or costs imposed for the conviction of an offense punishable by fine only~~

~~or~~ ~~contempt of another order of a justice or municipal court~~.

(c) If a child fails to obey an order of a justice or municipal court under circumstances that would constitute contempt of court, the justice or municipal court, after providing notice and an opportunity to be heard, may:

(1) refer the child to the appropriate juvenile court for delinquent conduct for contempt of the justice or municipal court order; or

(2) retain jurisdiction of the case, hold the child in contempt of the justice or municipal court, and order one or more ~~either or both~~ of the following:

(A) that the contemnor pay a fine not to exceed

1 \$500; [~~or~~]

2 (B) that the Department of Public Safety suspend
3 the contemnor's driver's license or permit or, if the contemnor does
4 not have a license or permit, to deny the issuance of a license or
5 permit to the contemnor until the contemnor fully complies with the
6 orders of the court; or

7 (C) that the child be confined for a period not to
8 exceed 24 hours in accordance with the requirements for detention
9 of a child under Section 51.12(f), Family Code.

10 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
11 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
12 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
13 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
14 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
15 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
16 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
17 before that date.

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