

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 2059

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an offense committed against a person because of bias or prejudice on the basis of gender identity or expression.

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

SECTION 1. Articles 42.014(a) and (c), Code of Criminal Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

(a) In the trial of an offense under Title 5, Penal Code, or Section 28.02, 28.03, or 28.08, Penal Code, the judge shall make an affirmative finding of fact and enter the affirmative finding in the judgment of the case if at the guilt or innocence phase of the trial, the judge or the jury, whichever is the trier of fact, determines beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant intentionally selected the person against whom the offense was committed or intentionally selected property damaged or affected as a result of the offense because of the defendant's bias or prejudice against a group identified by race, color, disability, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, gender, ~~or~~ sexual preference, or gender identity or expression.

(c) In this article:

(1) "Gender identity or expression" means having or being perceived as having a gender-related identity, appearance, expression, or behavior, regardless of whether that identity, appearance, expression, or behavior is different from that commonly associated with the person's actual or perceived sex.

1 (2) "Sexual [~~,"sexual~~] preference" has the following
2 meaning only: a preference for heterosexuality, homosexuality, or
3 bisexuality.

4 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
5 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
6 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
7 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
8 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
9 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
10 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
11 before that date.

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