

By: Lozano

H.B. No. 1554

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the prosecution and punishment of the smuggling of persons.

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

SECTION 1. Section 20.01, Penal Code, is amended by adding Subdivisions (6), (7), and (8) to read as follows:

(6) "Agricultural land" has the meaning assigned by Section 75.001, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

(7) "Firearm" has the meaning assigned by Section 46.01.

(8) "Special investigator" includes an agent of the United States Department of Homeland Security.

SECTION 2. Sections 20.05(a) and (b), Penal Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if the person [~~with the intent to obtain a pecuniary benefit,~~] knowingly:

(1) uses a motor vehicle, aircraft, watercraft, or other means of conveyance to transport an individual with the intent to:

(A) conceal the individual from a peace officer or special investigator; or

(B) flee from a person the actor knows is a peace officer or special investigator attempting to lawfully arrest or detain the actor; or

1 (2) assists, guides, or directs three or more
2 individuals to enter or remain on agricultural land without the
3 effective consent of the owner ~~[encourages or induces a person to~~
4 ~~enter or remain in this country in violation of federal law by~~
5 ~~concealing, harboring, or shielding that person from detection]~~.

6 (b) An offense under this section is a felony of the third
7 degree, except that the offense is:

8 (1) a felony of the second degree if:

9 (A) the actor commits the offense in a manner
10 that creates a substantial likelihood that the smuggled individual
11 will suffer serious bodily injury or death; ~~[or]~~

12 (B) the smuggled individual is a child younger
13 than 18 years of age at the time of the offense;

14 (C) the offense was committed with the intent to
15 obtain a pecuniary benefit; or

16 (D) during the commission of the offense the
17 actor, another party to the offense, or an individual assisted,
18 guided, or directed by the actor knowingly possessed a firearm; or

19 (2) a felony of the first degree if:

20 (A) it is shown on the trial of the offense that,
21 as a direct result of the commission of the offense, the smuggled
22 individual became a victim of sexual assault, as defined by Section
23 [22.011](#), or aggravated sexual assault, as defined by Section [22.021](#);
24 or

25 (B) the smuggled individual suffered serious
26 bodily injury or death.

27 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only

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

8 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.