

AN ACT

relating to the definition of coercion for purposes of the offense of trafficking of persons.

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

SECTION 1. Section 20A.02, Penal Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) For purposes of Subsection (a)(3), "coercion" as defined by Section 1.07 includes destroying, concealing, confiscating, or withholding from the trafficked person, or threatening to destroy, conceal, confiscate, or withhold from the trafficked person, the trafficked person's actual or purported:

(1) government records; or

(2) identifying information or documents.

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

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2529 was passed by the House on May 4, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2529 on May 25, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 3 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2529 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor