By:  King of Hemphill, Flynn, Guillen H.B. No. 667

     (Senate Sponsor - Perry)

(In the Senate - Received from the House April 23, 2019; April 24, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice; May 15, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 15, 2019, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Whitmire        X

Huffman         X

Buckingham      X

Flores          X

Hughes                    X

Miles           X

Perry           X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the prosecution of and punishment for the offense of sexual assault; enhancing a criminal penalty.

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

SECTION 1.  This Act shall be known as Melissa's Law.

SECTION 2.  Sections 22.011(e) and (f), Penal Code, are amended to read as follows:

(e)  It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under Subsection (a)(2):

(1)  that the actor was the spouse of the child at the time of the offense; or

(2)  that:

(A)  the actor was not more than three years older than the victim and at the time of the offense:

(i)  was not required under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, to register for life as a sex offender; or

(ii)  was not a person who under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, had a reportable conviction or adjudication for an offense under this section; and

(B)  the victim:

(i)  was a child of 14 years of age or older; and

(ii)  was not:

(a)  a person whom the actor was prohibited from marrying or purporting to marry or with whom the actor was prohibited from living under the appearance of being married under Section 25.01; or

(b)  a person with whom the actor was prohibited from engaging in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse under Section 25.02.

(f)  An offense under this section is a felony of the second degree, except that an offense under this section is a felony of the first degree if the victim was:

(1)  a person whom the actor was prohibited from marrying or purporting to marry or with whom the actor was prohibited from living under the appearance of being married under Section 25.01; or

(2)  a person with whom the actor was prohibited from engaging in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse under Section 25.02.

SECTION 3.  The changes in law made by this Act apply 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 when 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 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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