H.B. No. 3082

AN ACT

relating to investigating and prosecuting the criminal offense of operating an unmanned aircraft over or near certain facilities.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 423.0045(a)(1), Government Code, as amended by Chapters 824 (H.B. 1643) and 1010 (H.B. 1424), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is reenacted to read as follows:

(1)  "Correctional facility" means:

(A)  a confinement facility operated by or under contract with any division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;

(B)  a municipal or county jail;

(C)  a confinement facility operated by or under contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons; or

(D)  a secure correctional facility or secure detention facility, as defined by Section 51.02, Family Code.

SECTION 2.  Section 423.0045(a)(1-a), Government Code, is reenacted to conform to the changes made to Section 423.0045(a)(1), Government Code, by Chapter 824 (H.B. 1643), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, and is further amended to read as follows:

(1-a)  "Critical infrastructure facility" means:

(A)  one of the following, if completely enclosed by a fence or other physical barrier that is obviously designed to exclude intruders, or if clearly marked with a sign or signs that are posted on the property, are reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders, and indicate that entry is forbidden:

(i)  a petroleum or alumina refinery;

(ii)  an electrical power generating facility, substation, switching station, or electrical control center;

(iii)  a chemical, polymer, or rubber manufacturing facility;

(iv)  a water intake structure, water treatment facility, wastewater treatment plant, or pump station;

(v)  a natural gas compressor station;

(vi)  a liquid natural gas terminal or storage facility;

(vii)  a telecommunications central switching office or any structure used as part of a system to provide wired or wireless telecommunications services;

(viii)  a port, railroad switching yard, trucking terminal, or other freight transportation facility;

(ix)  a gas processing plant, including a plant used in the processing, treatment, or fractionation of natural gas;

(x)  a transmission facility used by a federally licensed radio or television station;

(xi)  a steelmaking facility that uses an electric arc furnace to make steel;

(xii)  a dam that is classified as a high hazard by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; [~~or~~]

(xiii)  a concentrated animal feeding operation, as defined by Section 26.048, Water Code; or

(xiv)  a military installation owned or operated by or for the federal government, the state, or another governmental entity; or

(B)  if enclosed by a fence or other physical barrier obviously designed to exclude intruders:

(i)  any portion of an aboveground oil, gas, or chemical pipeline;

(ii)  an oil or gas drilling site;

(iii)  a group of tanks used to store crude oil, such as a tank battery;

(iv)  an oil, gas, or chemical production facility;

(v)  an oil or gas wellhead; or

(vi)  any oil and gas facility that has an active flare.

SECTION 3.  Section 423.0045, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(b)  A person commits an offense if the person with criminal negligence [~~intentionally or knowingly~~]:

(1)  operates an unmanned aircraft over a correctional facility, detention facility, or critical infrastructure facility and the unmanned aircraft is not higher than 400 feet above ground level;

(2)  allows an unmanned aircraft to make contact with a correctional facility, detention facility, or critical infrastructure facility, including any person or object on the premises of or within the facility; or

(3)  allows an unmanned aircraft to come within a distance of a correctional facility, detention facility, or critical infrastructure facility that is close enough to interfere with the operations of or cause a disturbance to the facility.

(e)  A peace officer who investigates an offense under this section shall notify the Department of Public Safety of the investigation. The department may require further information from the officer as the department determines necessary.

SECTION 4.  Section 423.0045(c), Government Code, as amended by Chapters 824 (H.B. 1643) and 1010 (H.B. 1424), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is reenacted to read as follows:

(c)  This section does not apply to:

(1)  conduct described by Subsection (b) that involves a correctional facility, detention facility, or critical infrastructure facility and is committed by:

(A)  the federal government, the state, or a governmental entity;

(B)  a person under contract with or otherwise acting under the direction or on behalf of the federal government, the state, or a governmental entity;

(C)  a law enforcement agency;

(D)  a person under contract with or otherwise acting under the direction or on behalf of a law enforcement agency; or

(E)  an operator of an unmanned aircraft that is being used for a commercial purpose, if the operation is conducted in compliance with:

(i)  each applicable Federal Aviation Administration rule, restriction, or exemption; and

(ii)  all required Federal Aviation Administration authorizations; or

(2)  conduct described by Subsection (b) that involves a critical infrastructure facility and is committed by:

(A)  an owner or operator of the critical infrastructure facility;

(B)  a person under contract with or otherwise acting under the direction or on behalf of an owner or operator of the critical infrastructure facility;

(C)  a person who has the prior written consent of the owner or operator of the critical infrastructure facility; or

(D)  the owner or occupant of the property on which the critical infrastructure facility is located or a person who has the prior written consent of the owner or occupant of that property.

SECTION 5.  Section 423.0045, Government Code, as amended 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 6.  To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

SECTION 7.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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    President of the Senate Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3082 was passed by the House on May 3, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 141, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3082 on May 24, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3082 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                 Date

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               Governor