86R3598 JSC-F

By:  Watson S.B. No. 305

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a defense to prosecution for certain offenses involving possession of small amounts of controlled substances and other prohibited drugs, substances, or paraphernalia for defendants seeking assistance for a suspected overdose.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 481.115, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (g), (h), and (i) to read as follows:

(g)  It is a defense to prosecution for an offense punishable under Subsection (b) that the actor:

(1)  was the first person to request emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of another person and:

(A)  made the request for medical assistance during an ongoing medical emergency;

(B)  remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

(C)  cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel; or

(2)  was the victim of a possible overdose for which emergency medical assistance was requested, by the actor or by another person, during an ongoing medical emergency.

(h)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (g) is not available if, at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made, a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made.

(i)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (g) does not preclude the admission of evidence obtained by law enforcement resulting from the request for emergency medical assistance if that evidence pertains to an offense for which the defense described by Subsection (g) is not available.

SECTION 2.  Section 481.1151, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

(c)  It is a defense to prosecution for an offense punishable under Subsection (b)(1) that the actor:

(1)  was the first person to request emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of another person and:

(A)  made the request for medical assistance during an ongoing medical emergency;

(B)  remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

(C)  cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel; or

(2)  was the victim of a possible overdose for which emergency medical assistance was requested, by the actor or by another person, during an ongoing medical emergency.

(d)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) is not available if, at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made, a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made.

(e)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) does not preclude the admission of evidence obtained by law enforcement resulting from the request for emergency medical assistance if that evidence pertains to an offense for which the defense described by Subsection (c) is not available.

SECTION 3.  Section 481.116, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

(f)  It is a defense to prosecution for an offense punishable under Subsection (b) that the actor:

(1)  was the first person to request emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of another person and:

(A)  made the request for medical assistance during an ongoing medical emergency;

(B)  remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

(C)  cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel; or

(2)  was the victim of a possible overdose for which emergency medical assistance was requested, by the actor or by another person, during an ongoing medical emergency.

(g)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (f) is not available if, at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made, a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made.

(h)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (f) does not preclude the admission of evidence obtained by law enforcement resulting from the request for emergency medical assistance if that evidence pertains to an offense for which the defense described by Subsection (f) is not available.

SECTION 4.  Section 481.1161, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

(c)  It is a defense to prosecution for an offense punishable under Subsection (b)(1) or (2) that the actor:

(1)  was the first person to request emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of another person and:

(A)  made the request for medical assistance during an ongoing medical emergency;

(B)  remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

(C)  cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel; or

(2)  was the victim of a possible overdose for which emergency medical assistance was requested, by the actor or by another person, during an ongoing medical emergency.

(d)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) is not available if, at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made, a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made.

(e)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) does not preclude the admission of evidence obtained by law enforcement resulting from the request for emergency medical assistance if that evidence pertains to an offense for which the defense described by Subsection (c) is not available.

SECTION 5.  Section 481.117, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

(f)  It is a defense to prosecution for an offense punishable under Subsection (b) that the actor:

(1)  was the first person to request emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of another person and:

(A)  made the request for medical assistance during an ongoing medical emergency;

(B)  remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

(C)  cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel; or

(2)  was the victim of a possible overdose for which emergency medical assistance was requested, by the actor or by another person, during an ongoing medical emergency.

(g)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (f) is not available if, at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made, a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made.

(h)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (f) does not preclude the admission of evidence obtained by law enforcement resulting from the request for emergency medical assistance if that evidence pertains to an offense for which the defense described by Subsection (f) is not available.

SECTION 6.  Section 481.118, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

(f)  It is a defense to prosecution for an offense punishable under Subsection (b) that the actor:

(1)  was the first person to request emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of another person and:

(A)  made the request for medical assistance during an ongoing medical emergency;

(B)  remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

(C)  cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel; or

(2)  was the victim of a possible overdose for which emergency medical assistance was requested, by the actor or by another person, during an ongoing medical emergency.

(g)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (f) is not available if, at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made, a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made.

(h)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (f) does not preclude the admission of evidence obtained by law enforcement resulting from the request for emergency medical assistance if that evidence pertains to an offense for which the defense described by Subsection (f) is not available.

SECTION 7.  Section 481.119, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

(c)  It is a defense to prosecution for an offense under Subsection (b) that the actor:

(1)  was the first person to request emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of another person and:

(A)  made the request for medical assistance during an ongoing medical emergency;

(B)  remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

(C)  cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel; or

(2)  was the victim of a possible overdose for which emergency medical assistance was requested, by the actor or by another person, during an ongoing medical emergency.

(d)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) is not available if, at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made, a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made.

(e)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) does not preclude the admission of evidence obtained by law enforcement resulting from the request for emergency medical assistance if that evidence pertains to an offense for which the defense described by Subsection (c) is not available.

SECTION 8.  Section 481.121, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

(c)  It is a defense to prosecution for an offense punishable under Subsection (b)(1) or (2) that the actor:

(1)  was the first person to request emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of another person and:

(A)  made the request for medical assistance during an ongoing medical emergency;

(B)  remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

(C)  cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel; or

(2)  was the victim of a possible overdose for which emergency medical assistance was requested, by the actor or by another person, during an ongoing medical emergency.

(d)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) is not available if, at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made, a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made.

(e)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) does not preclude the admission of evidence obtained by law enforcement resulting from the request for emergency medical assistance if that evidence pertains to an offense for which the defense described by Subsection (c) is not available.

SECTION 9.  Section 481.125, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (g), (h), and (i) to read as follows:

(g)  It is a defense to prosecution for an offense under Subsection (a) that the actor:

(1)  was the first person to request emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of another person and:

(A)  made the request for medical assistance during an ongoing medical emergency;

(B)  remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

(C)  cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel; or

(2)  was the victim of a possible overdose for which emergency medical assistance was requested, by the actor or by another person, during an ongoing medical emergency.

(h)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (g) is not available if, at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made, a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made.

(i)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (g) does not preclude the admission of evidence obtained by law enforcement resulting from the request for emergency medical assistance if that evidence pertains to an offense for which the defense described by Subsection (g) is not available.

SECTION 10.  Section 483.041, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

(e)  It is a defense to prosecution for an offense under Subsection (a) that the actor:

(1)  was the first person to request emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of another person and:

(A)  made the request for medical assistance during an ongoing medical emergency;

(B)  remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

(C)  cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel; or

(2)  was the victim of a possible overdose for which emergency medical assistance was requested, by the actor or by another person, during an ongoing medical emergency.

(f)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (e) is not available if, at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made, a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made.

(g)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (e) does not preclude the admission of evidence obtained by law enforcement resulting from the request for emergency medical assistance if that evidence pertains to an offense for which the defense described by Subsection (e) is not available.

SECTION 11.  Section 485.031, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

(c)  It is a defense to prosecution for an offense under Subsection (a) that the actor:

(1)  was the first person to request emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of another person and:

(A)  made the request for medical assistance during an ongoing medical emergency;

(B)  remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

(C)  cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel; or

(2)  was the victim of a possible overdose for which emergency medical assistance was requested, by the actor or by another person, during an ongoing medical emergency.

(d)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) is not available if, at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made, a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made.

(e)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) does not preclude the admission of evidence obtained by law enforcement resulting from the request for emergency medical assistance if that evidence pertains to an offense for which the defense described by Subsection (c) is not available.

SECTION 12.  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 13.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.