By:  Huffman S.B. No. 1259

(Klick, Howard, Thompson of Harris, Button, Noble, et al.)

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the prosecution of the offense of sexual assault.

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

SECTION 1.  Article 12.01, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 12.01.  FELONIES.  Except as provided in Article 12.03, felony indictments may be presented within these limits, and not afterward:

(1)  no limitation:

(A)  murder and manslaughter;

(B)  sexual assault under Section 22.011(a)(2), Penal Code, or aggravated sexual assault under Section 22.021(a)(1)(B), Penal Code;

(C)  sexual assault, if:

(i)  during the investigation of the offense biological matter is collected and subjected to forensic DNA testing and the testing results show that the matter does not match the victim or any other person whose identity is readily ascertained; or

(ii)  probable cause exists to believe that the defendant has committed the same or a similar sexual offense against five or more victims;

(D)  continuous sexual abuse of young child or children under Section 21.02, Penal Code;

(E)  indecency with a child under Section 21.11, Penal Code;

(F)  an offense involving leaving the scene of an accident under Section 550.021, Transportation Code, if the accident resulted in the death of a person;

(G)  trafficking of persons under Section 20A.02(a)(7) or (8), Penal Code;

(H)  continuous trafficking of persons under Section 20A.03, Penal Code; or

(I)  compelling prostitution under Section 43.05(a)(2), Penal Code;

(2)  ten years from the date of the commission of the offense:

(A)  theft of any estate, real, personal or mixed, by an executor, administrator, guardian or trustee, with intent to defraud any creditor, heir, legatee, ward, distributee, beneficiary or settlor of a trust interested in such estate;

(B)  theft by a public servant of government property over which he exercises control in his official capacity;

(C)  forgery or the uttering, using or passing of forged instruments;

(D)  injury to an elderly or disabled individual punishable as a felony of the first degree under Section 22.04, Penal Code;

(E)  sexual assault, except as provided by Subdivision (1) or (7);

(F)  arson;

(G)  trafficking of persons under Section 20A.02(a)(1), (2), (3), or (4), Penal Code; or

(H)  compelling prostitution under Section 43.05(a)(1), Penal Code;

(3)  seven years from the date of the commission of the offense:

(A)  misapplication of fiduciary property or property of a financial institution;

(B)  securing execution of document by deception;

(C)  a felony violation under Chapter 162, Tax Code;

(D)  false statement to obtain property or credit under Section 32.32, Penal Code;

(E)  money laundering;

(F)  credit card or debit card abuse under Section 32.31, Penal Code;

(G)  fraudulent use or possession of identifying information under Section 32.51, Penal Code;

(H)  exploitation of a child, elderly individual, or disabled individual under Section 32.53, Penal Code;

(I)  Medicaid fraud under Section 35A.02, Penal Code; or

(J)  bigamy under Section 25.01, Penal Code, except as provided by Subdivision (6);

(4)  five years from the date of the commission of the offense:

(A)  theft or robbery;

(B)  except as provided by Subdivision (5), kidnapping or burglary;

(C)  injury to an elderly or disabled individual that is not punishable as a felony of the first degree under Section 22.04, Penal Code;

(D)  abandoning or endangering a child; or

(E)  insurance fraud;

(5)  if the investigation of the offense shows that the victim is younger than 17 years of age at the time the offense is committed, 20 years from the 18th birthday of the victim of one of the following offenses:

(A)  sexual performance by a child under Section 43.25, Penal Code;

(B)  aggravated kidnapping under Section 20.04(a)(4), Penal Code, if the defendant committed the offense with the intent to violate or abuse the victim sexually; or

(C)  burglary under Section 30.02, Penal Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (d) of that section and the defendant committed the offense with the intent to commit an offense described by Subdivision (1)(B) or (D) of this article or Paragraph (B) of this subdivision;

(6)  ten years from the 18th birthday of the victim of the offense:

(A)  trafficking of persons under Section 20A.02(a)(5) or (6), Penal Code;

(B)  injury to a child under Section 22.04, Penal Code; or

(C)  bigamy under Section 25.01, Penal Code, if the investigation of the offense shows that the person, other than the legal spouse of the defendant, whom the defendant marries or purports to marry or with whom the defendant lives under the appearance of being married is younger than 18 years of age at the time the offense is committed; [~~or~~]

(7)  two years from the date the offense was discovered: sexual assault punishable as a state jail felony under Section 22.011(f)(2), Penal Code; or

(8)  three years from the date of the commission of the offense:  all other felonies.

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

(b)  A sexual assault under Subsection (a)(1) is without the consent of the other person if:

(1)  the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by the use of physical force, violence, or coercion;

(2)  the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by threatening to use force or violence against the other person or to cause harm to the other person, and the other person believes that the actor has the present ability to execute the threat;

(3)  the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unconscious or physically unable to resist;

(4)  the actor knows that as a result of mental disease or defect the other person is at the time of the sexual assault incapable either of appraising the nature of the act or of resisting it;

(5)  the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unaware that the sexual assault is occurring;

(6)  the actor has intentionally impaired the other person's power to appraise or control the other person's conduct by administering any substance without the other person's knowledge;

(7)  the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by threatening to use force or violence against any person, and the other person believes that the actor has the ability to execute the threat;

(8)  the actor is a public servant who coerces the other person to submit or participate;

(9)  the actor is a mental health services provider or a health care services provider who causes the other person, who is a patient or former patient of the actor, to submit or participate by exploiting the other person's emotional dependency on the actor;

(10)  the actor is a clergyman who causes the other person to submit or participate by exploiting the other person's emotional dependency on the clergyman in the clergyman's professional character as spiritual adviser; [~~or~~]

(11)  the actor is an employee of a facility where the other person is a resident, unless the employee and resident are formally or informally married to each other under Chapter 2, Family Code; or

(12)  the actor is a health care services provider who, in the course of performing an assisted reproduction procedure on the other person, uses human reproductive material from a donor knowing that the other person has not expressly consented to the use of material from that donor.

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

(1)  a felony of the first degree if the victim was 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 state jail felony if the offense is committed under Subsection (a)(1) and the actor has not received express consent as described by Subsection (b)(12).

SECTION 3.  Section 22.011(c), Penal Code, is amended by adding Subdivisions (6) and (7) to read as follows:

(6)  "Assisted reproduction" and "donor" have the meanings assigned by Section 160.102, Family Code.

(7)  "Human reproductive material" means:

(A)  a human spermatozoon or ovum; or

(B)  a human organism at any stage of development from fertilized ovum to embryo.

SECTION 4.  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 5.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.