

By: Frank

H.B. No. 261

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the prosecution of the offense of capital murder.

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

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

SECTION 2. Section 19.03(a), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if the person commits murder as defined under Section 19.02(b)(1) and:

(1) the person murders a peace officer or fireman who is acting in the lawful discharge of an official duty and who the person knows is a peace officer or fireman;

(2) the person intentionally commits the murder in the course of committing or attempting to commit kidnapping, burglary, robbery, aggravated sexual assault, arson, obstruction or retaliation, or terroristic threat under Section 22.07(a)(1), (3), (4), (5), or (6);

(3) the person commits the murder for remuneration or the promise of remuneration or employs another to commit the murder for remuneration or the promise of remuneration;

(4) the person commits the murder while escaping or attempting to escape from a penal institution;

(5) the person, while incarcerated in a penal institution, murders another:

(A) who is employed in the operation of the penal

1 institution; or

2 (B) with the intent to establish, maintain, or
3 participate in a combination or in the profits of a combination;

4 (6) the person:

5 (A) while incarcerated for an offense under this
6 section or Section 19.02, murders another; or

7 (B) while serving a sentence of life imprisonment
8 or a term of 99 years for an offense under Section 20.04, 22.021, or
9 29.03, murders another;

10 (7) the person murders more than one person:

11 (A) during the same criminal transaction; or

12 (B) during different criminal transactions but
13 the murders are committed pursuant to the same scheme or course of
14 conduct;

15 (8) the person murders an individual under 15 [~~10~~]
16 years of age; or

17 (9) the person murders another person in retaliation
18 for or on account of the service or status of the other person as a
19 judge or justice of the supreme court, the court of criminal
20 appeals, a court of appeals, a district court, a criminal district
21 court, a constitutional county court, a statutory county court, a
22 justice court, or a municipal court.

23 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
24 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
25 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
26 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
27 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For

1 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
2 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
3 before that date.

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