

1-1 By: Herrero, Longoria, Goldman H.B. No. 1661  
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa)  
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 23, 2019;  
 1-4 April 24, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-5 Criminal Justice; May 15, 2019, reported favorably by the  
 1-6 following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 15, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-17 AN ACT

1-18 relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of continuous  
 1-19 violence against the family.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as Rachel's Law.

1-22 SECTION 2. Chapter 13, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
 1-23 amended by adding Article 13.072 to read as follows:

1-24 Art. 13.072. CONTINUOUS VIOLENCE AGAINST THE FAMILY  
 1-25 COMMITTED IN MORE THAN ONE COUNTY. An offense under Section 25.11,  
 1-26 Penal Code, may be prosecuted in any county in which the defendant  
 1-27 engaged in the conduct constituting an offense under Section  
 1-28 22.01(a)(1), Penal Code, against a person described by Section  
 1-29 25.11(a), Penal Code.

1-30 SECTION 3. Section 25.11(b), Penal Code, is amended to read  
 1-31 as follows:

1-32 (b) If the jury is the trier of fact, members of the jury are  
 1-33 not required to agree unanimously on the specific conduct in which  
 1-34 the defendant engaged that constituted an offense under Section  
 1-35 22.01(a)(1) against the person or persons described by Subsection  
 1-36 (a), ~~or~~ the exact date when that conduct occurred, or the county  
 1-37 in which each instance of the conduct occurred. The jury must agree  
 1-38 unanimously that the defendant, during a period that is 12 months or  
 1-39 less in duration, two or more times engaged in conduct that  
 1-40 constituted an offense under Section 22.01(a)(1) against the person  
 1-41 or persons described by Subsection (a).

1-42 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
 1-43 an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An  
 1-44 offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed  
 1-45 by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the  
 1-46 former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of  
 1-47 this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of  
 1-48 this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

1-49 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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