

By: Lang

H.B. No. 4502

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating the criminal offenses of terrorism and  
terroristic hoax.

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

SECTION 1. Title 10, Penal Code, is amended by adding  
Chapter 50 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 50. TERRORISM

Sec. 50.01. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "terrorist  
organization" means any of the following:

(1) a domestic or foreign organization that engages or  
prepares to engage in the planning, preparation, commission, or  
support of an act of terrorism;

(2) a domestic or foreign organization that has the  
capability and intent to engage in an act of terrorism; or

(3) an organization designated as a foreign terrorist  
organization by the United States secretary of state as authorized  
by 8 U.S.C. Section 1189.

Sec. 50.02. TERRORISM. (a) A person commits an offense if  
the person commits one or more offenses under Section 20.03 or  
engages in an act of violence that causes felony damage to property,  
serious bodily injury, or death, or threatens to commit such an  
offense, with the intent to:

(1) intimidate or coerce a civilian population to  
further the objectives of a terrorist organization;

1           (2) influence the policy or conduct of the state  
2 government by intimidation or coercion;

3           (3) support a broader ideological movement, including  
4 a nonviolent movement, with the objective of overthrowing the state  
5 government and replacing the existing form of government with a  
6 form of government that is not based on the essential principles of  
7 liberty; or

8           (4) retaliate for policy or conduct of the state  
9 government by intimidation or coercion.

10          (b) An offense under this section is a felony of the first  
11 degree.

12          Sec. 50.03. TERRORISTIC HOAX. (a) A person commits an  
13 offense if the person knowingly simulates an offense under Section  
14 50.02 as a prank and:

15           (1) intentionally uses a substance to cause fear,  
16 intimidation, or anxiety in a person and to cause a reasonable  
17 belief by the person that the substance is placed, sent, delivered,  
18 or otherwise used as an act of biochemical or radiological  
19 terrorism requiring an emergency response or the evacuation or  
20 quarantine of a person, place, or item; or

21           (2) commits or threatens to commit an act of violence,  
22 sabotage, felony damage to property, or serious bodily injury with  
23 the intent to cause fear, intimidation, or anxiety in a person and a  
24 reasonable belief by the person that the act or threat is an act of  
25 terrorism to disrupt any place, population, or business in this  
26 state or to disrupt the state government.

27          (b) An offense under this section is a felony of the first

1 degree.

2           SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
3 an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An  
4 offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed  
5 by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the former  
6 law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this  
7 section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this  
8 Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

9           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.