By:  Birdwell S.B. No. 1741

(In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2021; March 26, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice; April 27, 2021, rereferred to Committee on Jurisprudence; May 13, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 3, Nays 1; May 13, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Huffman           X

Hinojosa             X

Creighton                      X

Hughes               X

Johnson                  X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to pretrial procedures, conditions for community supervision, and criminal punishment for conduct endangering the public safety; creating a criminal offense and increasing criminal penalties.

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

SECTION 1.  Article 17.03(b), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  Only the court before whom the case is pending may release on personal bond a defendant who:

(1)  is charged with an offense under the following sections of the Penal Code:

(A)  Section 19.03 (Capital Murder);

(B)  Section 20.04 (Aggravated Kidnapping);

(C)  Section 22.021 (Aggravated Sexual Assault);

(D)  Section 22.03 (Deadly Assault on Law Enforcement or Corrections Officer, Member or Employee of Board of Pardons and Paroles, or Court Participant);

(E)  Section 22.04 (Injury to a Child, Elderly Individual, or Disabled Individual);

(F)  Section 29.03 (Aggravated Robbery);

(G)  Section 30.02 (Burglary);

(H)  Section 71.02 (Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity);

(I)  Section 21.02 (Continuous Sexual Abuse of Young Child or Children); [~~or~~]

(J)  Section 20A.03 (Continuous Trafficking of Persons); or

(K)  Section 42.02 (Riot);

(2)  is charged with a felony under Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, or Section 485.033, Health and Safety Code, punishable by imprisonment for a minimum term or by a maximum fine that is more than a minimum term or maximum fine for a first degree felony; or

(3)  does not submit to testing for the presence of a controlled substance in the defendant's body as requested by the court or magistrate under Subsection (c) of this article or submits to testing and the test shows evidence of the presence of a controlled substance in the defendant's body.

SECTION 2.  Article 17.033, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e)  Notwithstanding the time limits imposed by Subsections (a) and (b), a person who is arrested without a warrant for an alleged violation of Section 42.02, Penal Code, and who is detained in jail may not be released on bond before the earlier of:

(1)  the day on which the court before whom the case is pending is reasonably able to verify the person's:

(A)  name;

(B)  address of primary residence;

(C)  driver's license number and state of issuance, if any;

(D)  place of employment, if any; and

(E)  current enrollment at an institution of higher education, if any; or

(2)  the 72nd hour after the commencement of the person's detention.

SECTION 3.  Subchapter K, Chapter 42A, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 42A.517 to read as follows:

Art. 42A.517.  COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES INVOLVING OBSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAY OR OTHER PASSAGEWAY. A court granting community supervision to a defendant convicted of an offense punishable as a state jail felony under Section 42.03, Penal Code, shall require as a condition of community supervision that the defendant submit to not less than 10 days of confinement in a county jail.

SECTION 4.  Subchapter D, Chapter 12, Penal Code, is amended by adding Section 12.501 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.501.  PENALTY IF OFFENSE COMMITTED DURING A RIOT. (a) In this section, "riot" has the meaning assigned by Section 42.02.

(b)  Subject to Subsections (d) and (e), the punishment for an offense listed under Subsection (c) is increased to the punishment prescribed for the next higher category of offense if it is shown on the trial of the offense that at the time of the offense the actor was participating in a riot.

(c)  The increase in punishment authorized by this section applies only to an offense under:

(1)  Section 22.01 (Assault);

(2)  Section 28.02 (Arson);

(3)  Section 28.03 (Criminal Mischief);

(4)  Section 29.02 (Robbery);

(5)  Section 30.02 (Burglary);

(6)  Section 30.03 (Burglary of Coin-operated or Coin Collection Machines);

(7)  Section 30.04 (Burglary of Vehicles);

(8)  Section 30.05 (Criminal Trespass);

(9)  Section 31.03 (Theft); and

(10)  Section 50.02 (Unlawful Use of Fireworks).

(d)  If an offense listed under Subsection (c) is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor after the application of Subsection (b), the minimum term of confinement for the offense shall be no less than 180 days.

(e)  If an offense listed under Subsection (c) is punishable as a felony of the first degree, the punishment of that offense may not be increased under this section.

SECTION 5.  Section 42.03(c), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c)  An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor, except that the offense is a state jail felony if, in committing the offense, the actor knowingly:

(1)  prevents the passage of an authorized emergency vehicle, as defined by Section 541.201, Transportation Code, that is operating the vehicle's emergency audible or visual signals; or

(2)  obstructs access to a hospital licensed under Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, or other health care facility that provides emergency medical care, as defined by Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code.

SECTION 6.  Section 42.13, Penal Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(c)  An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor, except that the offense is:

(1)  a felony of the third degree if the conduct causes bodily injury to the officer; or

(2)  a felony of the first degree if the conduct causes serious bodily injury to the officer.

(d)  If conduct that constitutes an offense under this section also constitutes an offense under any other law, the actor may be prosecuted under this section or the other law, but not both.

SECTION 7.  Title 10, Penal Code, is amended by adding Chapter 50 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 50. FIREWORKS

Sec. 50.01.  DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1)  "Consumer firework" and "fireworks" have the meanings assigned by 49 C.F.R. Section 173.59.

(2)  "Law enforcement officer" means a person who is a peace officer under Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, or a person who is a federal law enforcement officer, as defined by 5 U.S.C. Section 8331(20).

Sec. 50.02.  UNLAWFUL USE OF FIREWORKS. (a) A person commits an offense if the person explodes or ignites fireworks with the intent to:

(1)  interfere with the lawful performance of an official duty by a law enforcement officer; or

(2)  flee from a person the actor knows is a law enforcement officer attempting to lawfully arrest or detain the actor.

(b)  Except as provided by Subsections (c) and (d), an offense under this section is a state jail felony.

(c)  An offense under this section that involves any firework that is not a consumer firework is a second degree felony.

(d)  Notwithstanding Subsection (c), an offense under this section is a felony of the first degree if the offense causes serious bodily injury to a person the actor knows is a law enforcement officer while the law enforcement officer is lawfully discharging an official duty or in retaliation or on account of an exercise of official power or performance of an official duty as a law enforcement officer.

(e)  If conduct constituting an offense under this section also constitutes an offense under any other law, the actor may be prosecuted under this section, the other law, or both.

SECTION 8.  Articles 17.03 and 17.033, Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended by this Act, apply only to a person who is arrested on or after the effective date of this Act. A person arrested before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the person was arrested, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 9.  Article 42A.517, Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by this Act, Sections 12.501 and 50.02, Penal Code, as added by this Act, and Sections 42.03 and 42.13, Penal Code, as amended 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 10.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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