

By: Lozano, Guillen, Canales, et al.

H.B. No. 687

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 687:

By: Murr

C.S.H.B. No. 687

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1

AN ACT

2 relating to the prosecution and punishment of the offense of
3 smuggling of persons.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 20.01, Penal Code, is amended by adding
6 Subdivisions (6) and (7) to read as follows:

7 (6) "Firearm" has the meaning assigned by Section
8 46.01.

9 (7) "Special investigator" includes an agent of the
10 United States Department of Homeland Security.

11 SECTION 2. Sections 20.05(a) and (b), Penal Code, are
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (a) A person commits an offense if the person [~~with the~~
14 ~~intent to obtain a pecuniary benefit,~~] knowingly:

15 (1) uses a motor vehicle, aircraft, watercraft, or
16 other means of conveyance to transport an individual with the
17 intent to:

18 (A) conceal the individual from a peace officer
19 or special investigator; or

20 (B) flee from a person the actor knows is a peace
21 officer or special investigator attempting to lawfully arrest or
22 detain the actor; or

23 (2) encourages or induces a person to enter or remain
24 in this country in violation of federal law by concealing,

1 harboring, or shielding that person from detection.

2 (b) An offense under this section is a felony of the third
3 degree, except that the offense is:

4 (1) a felony of the second degree if:

5 (A) the actor commits the offense in a manner
6 that creates a substantial likelihood that the smuggled individual
7 will suffer serious bodily injury or death; ~~[or]~~

8 (B) the smuggled individual is a child younger
9 than 18 years of age at the time of the offense;

10 (C) the offense was committed with the intent to
11 obtain a pecuniary benefit;

12 (D) during the commission of the offense the
13 actor, another party to the offense, or an individual assisted,
14 guided, or directed by the actor knowingly possessed a firearm; or

15 (E) the actor commits the offense under
16 Subsection (a)(1)(B); or

17 (2) a felony of the first degree if:

18 (A) it is shown on the trial of the offense that,
19 as a direct result of the commission of the offense, the smuggled
20 individual became a victim of sexual assault, as defined by Section
21 [22.011](#), or aggravated sexual assault, as defined by Section [22.021](#);
22 or

23 (B) the smuggled individual suffered serious
24 bodily injury or death.

25 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
26 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
27 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is

1 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
2 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
3 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
4 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
5 before that date.

6 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.