

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 717

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the corroboration of certain testimony in the prosecution of a trafficking of persons offense.

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

SECTION 1. Section 20A.04, Penal Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), a [A] conviction under this chapter may be had on the uncorroborated testimony of a party to the offense.

(d) On request of the defendant or attorney representing the state, the court shall hold a hearing regarding whether the testimony of the party must be corroborated as required by Article 38.14, Code of Criminal Procedure. If the court determines that the party providing the testimony was a willing participant in the offense, the court shall instruct the jury in accordance with Article 38.14, Code of Criminal Procedure.

SECTION 2. Section 20A.04, Penal Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to a trial that begins on or after the effective date of this Act, regardless of whether the alleged offense was committed before, on, or after that date.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.