

By: Murphy

H.B. No. 1509

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to enhancing the criminal penalties for certain repeat and  
3 habitual offenders.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 12.42(a), (b), and (d), Penal Code, are  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (c)(2), if it is shown  
8 on the trial of a felony of the third degree that the defendant has  
9 previously been finally convicted of a felony other than a state  
10 jail felony punishable under Section 12.35(a) or 12.43(b-1), on  
11 conviction the defendant shall be punished for a felony of the  
12 second degree.

13 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c)(2) or (c)(4), if it  
14 is shown on the trial of a felony of the second degree that the  
15 defendant has previously been finally convicted of a felony other  
16 than a state jail felony punishable under Section 12.35(a) or  
17 12.43(b-1), on conviction the defendant shall be punished for a  
18 felony of the first degree.

19 (d) Except as provided by Subsection (c)(2) or (c)(4), if it  
20 is shown on the trial of a felony offense other than a state jail  
21 felony punishable under Section 12.35(a) or 12.43(b-1) that the  
22 defendant has previously been finally convicted of two felony  
23 offenses, and the second previous felony conviction is for an  
24 offense that occurred subsequent to the first previous conviction

1 having become final, on conviction the defendant shall be punished  
2 by imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for  
3 life, or for any term of not more than 99 years or less than 25  
4 years. A previous conviction for a state jail felony punishable  
5 under Section [12.35\(a\)](#) or [12.43\(b-1\)](#) may not be used for  
6 enhancement purposes under this subsection.

7 SECTION 2. Sections [12.42\(c\)\(1\)](#) and (5), Penal Code, are  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (1) If it is shown on the trial of a felony of the first  
10 degree that the defendant has previously been finally convicted of  
11 a felony other than a state jail felony punishable under Section  
12 [12.35\(a\)](#) or [12.43\(b-1\)](#), on conviction the defendant shall be  
13 punished by imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal  
14 Justice for life, or for any term of not more than 99 years or less  
15 than 15 years. In addition to imprisonment, an individual may be  
16 punished by a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

17 (5) A previous conviction for a state jail felony  
18 punishable under Section [12.35\(a\)](#) or [12.43\(b-1\)](#) may not be used for  
19 enhancement purposes under Subdivision (2).

20 SECTION 3. Section [12.425](#), Penal Code, is amended to read as  
21 follows:

22 Sec. 12.425. PENALTIES FOR REPEAT AND HABITUAL FELONY  
23 OFFENDERS ON TRIAL FOR STATE JAIL FELONY. (a) If it is shown on  
24 the trial of a state jail felony punishable under Section [12.35\(a\)](#)  
25 or [12.43\(b-1\)](#) that the defendant has previously been finally  
26 convicted of two state jail felonies punishable under Section  
27 [12.35\(a\)](#) or [12.43\(b-1\)](#), on conviction the defendant shall be

1 punished for a felony of the third degree.

2 (b) If it is shown on the trial of a state jail felony  
3 punishable under Section [12.35\(a\)](#) or [12.43\(b-1\)](#) that the defendant  
4 has previously been finally convicted of two felonies other than a  
5 state jail felony punishable under Section [12.35\(a\)](#) or [12.43\(b-1\)](#),  
6 and the second previous felony conviction is for an offense that  
7 occurred subsequent to the first previous conviction having become  
8 final, on conviction the defendant shall be punished for a felony of  
9 the second degree.

10 (c) If it is shown on the trial of a state jail felony for  
11 which punishment may be enhanced under Section [12.35\(c\)](#) that the  
12 defendant has previously been finally convicted of a felony other  
13 than a state jail felony punishable under Section [12.35\(a\)](#) or  
14 [12.43\(b-1\)](#), on conviction the defendant shall be punished for a  
15 felony of the second degree.

16 SECTION 4. Section [12.43](#), Penal Code, is amended by  
17 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as  
18 follows:

19 (a) Except as provided under Subsection (b-1), if ~~[If]~~ it is  
20 shown on the trial of a Class A misdemeanor that the defendant has  
21 been previously ~~[before]~~ convicted of a Class A misdemeanor or any  
22 degree of felony, on conviction the defendant ~~[he]~~ shall be  
23 punished by:

- 24 (1) a fine not to exceed \$4,000;
- 25 (2) confinement in jail for any term of not more than  
26 one year or less than 90 days; or
- 27 (3) both such fine and confinement.

1        (b-1) An offense that is a Class A misdemeanor is a state  
2 jail felony if it is shown on the trial of the offense that:

3            (1) the defendant has been previously convicted four  
4 or more times of a Class A misdemeanor or any degree of felony;

5            (2) at least one of the previous convictions described  
6 by Subdivision (1) was of a felony; and

7            (3) each of the previous offenses was committed in the  
8 10-year period preceding the date of commission of the instant  
9 offense.

10        SECTION 5. Articles 42A.551(a) and (d), Code of Criminal  
11 Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

12        (a) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (b) or (c),  
13 on conviction of a state jail felony under Section 481.115(b),  
14 481.1151(b)(1), 481.116(b), 481.1161(b)(3), 481.121(b)(3), or  
15 481.129(g)(1), Health and Safety Code, that is punished under  
16 Section 12.35(a), Penal Code, or on conviction of an offense under  
17 Section 481.1161(b)(2) or 481.121(b)(2), Health and Safety Code,  
18 punished as a state jail felony under Section 12.43(b-1), Penal  
19 Code, the judge shall suspend the imposition of the sentence and  
20 place the defendant on community supervision.

21        (d) On conviction of a state jail felony punished under  
22 Section 12.35(a) or 12.43(b-1), Penal Code, other than a state jail  
23 felony listed in Subsection (a) or to which Article 42A.515  
24 applies, subject to Subsection (e), the judge may:

25            (1) suspend the imposition of the sentence and place  
26 the defendant on community supervision; or

27            (2) order the sentence to be executed:

1 (A) in whole; or

2 (B) in part, with a period of community  
3 supervision to begin immediately on release of the defendant from  
4 confinement.

5 SECTION 6. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
6 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
7 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
8 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
9 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
10 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
11 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred  
12 before that date.

13 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.