

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 1954

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the penalty for certain offenders for possession of a small amount of certain controlled substances.

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

SECTION 1. Section 481.115, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (b-1), an [An] offense under Subsection (a) is a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum term of confinement of 180 days [state jail felony] if the amount of the controlled substance possessed is, by aggregate weight, including adulterants or dilutants, less than one gram.

(b-1) An offense punishable under Subsection (b) is a state jail felony if the person has been previously convicted of an offense under this section or Section 481.1151, 481.116, 481.1161, 481.117, 481.118, or 481.121.

SECTION 2. Section 481.1151, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(b) An offense under this section is:

(1) a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum term of confinement of 180 days [state jail felony] if the number of abuse units of the controlled substance is fewer than 20, except as provided by Subsection (c);

1           (2) a felony of the third degree if the number of abuse  
2 units of the controlled substance is 20 or more but fewer than 80;

3           (3) a felony of the second degree if the number of  
4 abuse units of the controlled substance is 80 or more but fewer than  
5 4,000;

6           (4) a felony of the first degree if the number of abuse  
7 units of the controlled substance is 4,000 or more but fewer than  
8 8,000; and

9           (5) punishable by imprisonment in the Texas Department  
10 of Criminal Justice for life or for a term of not more than 99 years  
11 or less than 15 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000, if the  
12 number of abuse units of the controlled substance is 8,000 or more.

13           (c) An offense punishable under Subsection (b)(1) is a state  
14 jail felony if the person has been previously convicted of an  
15 offense under this section or Section [481.115](#), [481.116](#), [481.1161](#),  
16 [481.117](#), [481.118](#), or [481.121](#).

17           SECTION 3. Section [481.116](#), Health and Safety Code, is  
18 amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to  
19 read as follows:

20           (b) Except as provided by Subsection (b-1), an ~~An~~ offense  
21 under Subsection (a) is a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum term of  
22 confinement of 180 days ~~[state jail felony]~~ if the amount of the  
23 controlled substance possessed is, by aggregate weight, including  
24 adulterants or dilutants, less than one gram.

25           (b-1) An offense punishable under Subsection (b) is a state  
26 jail felony if the person has been previously convicted of an  
27 offense under this section or Section [481.115](#), [481.1151](#), [481.1161](#),

1 481.117, 481.118, or 481.121.

2 SECTION 4. Section 481.134(d), Health and Safety Code, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (d) An offense otherwise punishable under Section  
5 481.112(b), 481.1121(b)(1), 481.113(b), 481.114(b), 481.115(b-1)  
6 [~~481.115(b)~~], 481.1151(c) [~~481.1151(b)(1)~~], 481.116(b-1)  
7 [~~481.116(b)~~], 481.1161(b)(3), 481.120(b)(3), or 481.121(b)(3) is a  
8 felony of the third degree if it is shown on the trial of the offense  
9 that the offense was committed:

10 (1) in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any real property  
11 that is owned, rented, or leased to a school or school board, the  
12 premises of a public or private youth center, or a playground; or

13 (2) on a school bus.

14 SECTION 5. Subchapter K, Chapter 42A, Code of Criminal  
15 Procedure, is amended by adding Article 42A.517 to read as follows:

16 Art. 42A.517. COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FOR CERTAIN DRUG  
17 OFFENSES; EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. A judge who grants community  
18 supervision to a person convicted of a Class A misdemeanor under  
19 Section 481.115(b), 481.1151(b)(1), 481.116(b), or 481.1161(b)(2),  
20 Health and Safety Code, may require, as a condition of community  
21 supervision, that the person successfully complete an educational  
22 program on substance abuse awareness approved by the Texas  
23 Department of Licensing and Regulation.

24 SECTION 6. Articles 42A.551(a) and (c), Code of Criminal  
25 Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

26 (a) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (b) or (c),  
27 on conviction of a state jail felony under Section 481.115(b-1)

1 ~~[481.115(b)]~~, 481.1151(c) ~~[481.1151(b)(1)]~~, 481.116(b-1)  
2 ~~[481.116(b)]~~, 481.1161(b)(3), 481.121(b)(3), or 481.129(g)(1),  
3 Health and Safety Code, that is punished under Section 12.35(a),  
4 Penal Code, the judge shall suspend the imposition of the sentence  
5 and place the defendant on community supervision.

6 (c) Subsection (a) does not apply to a defendant who:

7 (1) under Section 481.1151(c) ~~[481.1151(b)(1)]~~,  
8 Health and Safety Code, possessed more than five abuse units of the  
9 controlled substance;

10 (2) under Section 481.1161(b)(3), Health and Safety  
11 Code, possessed more than one pound, by aggregate weight, including  
12 adulterants or dilutants, of the controlled substance; or

13 (3) under Section 481.121(b)(3), Health and Safety  
14 Code, possessed more than one pound of marihuana.

15 SECTION 7. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
16 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
17 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
18 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
19 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
20 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
21 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense was  
22 committed before that date.

23 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.