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H.B. No. 2498

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to harassment using a temporary or disposable telephone number; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1. Section 42.07(a), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass another, the person:

(1) initiates communication and in the course of the communication makes a comment, request, suggestion, or proposal that is obscene;

(2) threatens, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the threat, to inflict bodily injury on the person or to commit a felony against the person, a member of the person's family or household, or the person's property;

(3) conveys, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the report, a false report, which is known by the conveyor to be false, that another person has suffered death or serious bodily injury;

(4) causes the telephone of another to ring repeatedly or makes repeated telephone communications anonymously or in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another;

(5) makes a telephone call and intentionally fails to

1 hang up or disengage the connection;

2 (6) knowingly permits a telephone under the person's
3 control to be used by another to commit an offense under this
4 section; ~~or~~

5 (7) sends repeated electronic communications in a
6 manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment,
7 embarrass, or offend another; or

8 (8) makes obscene, intimidating, or threatening
9 telephone calls or other electronic communications from a temporary
10 or disposable telephone number provided by an Internet application
11 or other technological means.

12 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
13 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
14 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
15 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
16 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
17 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
18 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
19 before that date.

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