

By: Paul

H.B. No. 2597

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prohibiting camping in certain places; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 48, Penal Code, is amended by adding Section 48.05 to read as follows:

Sec. 48.05. PROHIBITED CAMPING. (a) In this section:

(1) "Camp" means to reside temporarily in a place, with shelter.

(2) "Controlled access highway" has the meaning assigned by Section 203.001, Transportation Code.

(3) "Shelter" includes a tent, a tarpaulin, a lean-to, a sleeping bag, a bedroll, blankets, or any form of shelter, other than clothing, designed to protect a person from weather conditions that threaten personal health and safety.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly camps under:

(1) a controlled access highway; or

(2) the frontage road of a controlled access highway.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.