

By: Hunter

H.B. No. 3521

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the definition of coercion for purposes of trafficking of persons.

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

SECTION 1. Section 20A.01, Penal Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1-a) "Coercion" as defined by Section 1.07 includes:

(A) destroying, concealing, confiscating, or withholding from a trafficked person, or threatening to destroy, conceal, confiscate, or withhold from a trafficked person, the person's actual or purported:

(i) government records; or

(ii) identifying information or documents;

(B) causing a trafficked person, without the person's consent, to become intoxicated, as defined by Section 49.01, to a degree that impairs the person's ability to appraise the nature of or resist engaging in any conduct, including performing or providing labor or services; or

(C) withholding alcohol or a controlled substance to a degree that impairs the ability of a trafficked person with a chemical dependency, as defined by Section 462.001, Health and Safety Code, to appraise the nature of or resist engaging in any conduct, including performing or providing labor or services.

1 SECTION 2. Section 20A.02(a-1), Penal Code, is repealed.

2 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
3 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
4 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
5 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
6 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
7 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
8 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
9 before that date.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.