

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 Section 20A.02(a-1), Penal Code, is repealed.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

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3521 was passed by the House on May 11, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3521 was passed by the Senate on May 27, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor