

By: Miles

S.B. No. 503

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to creating the criminal offense of failing to report  
3 abuse, neglect, or exploitation in boarding home facilities in  
4 certain counties and municipalities.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 260, Health and Safety Code, is amended  
7 by adding Section 260.0091 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 260.0091. REPORTING OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR EXPLOITATION  
9 IN CERTAIN COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES; CRIMINAL PENALTY. (a)  
10 This section applies only to a county or municipality that does not  
11 require a person to obtain a permit from the county or municipality  
12 to operate a boarding home facility, as authorized by Section  
13 260.004.

14 (b) A person commits an offense if the person:

15 (1) leases to another a building owned by the person  
16 that is being operated as a boarding home facility in a county or  
17 municipality to which this section applies;

18 (2) has actual knowledge that a resident of the  
19 boarding home facility is being or has been abused, neglected, or  
20 exploited; and

21 (3) fails to report the abuse, neglect, or  
22 exploitation to the Department of Family and Protective Services  
23 for investigation by that agency.

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

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