SENATE AMENDMENTS

2nd Printing

By: Guillen, Raymond, Muñoz, Jr., Lozano, H.B. No. 2 Lopez of Cameron, et al.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1	AN ACT
2	relating to the punishment for certain criminal conduct involving
3	the smuggling of persons or the operation of a stash house;
4	increasing criminal penalties.
5	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
6	SECTION 1. If H.B. No. 165, Acts of the 88th Legislature,
7	Regular Session, 2023, becomes law, Section 3.03, Penal Code, as
8	effective September 1, 2023, is amended by amending Subsection (a)
9	and adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:
10	(a) When the accused is found guilty of more than one
11	offense arising out of the same criminal episode prosecuted in a
12	single criminal action, a sentence for each offense for which the
13	accused has been found guilty shall be pronounced. Except as
14	otherwise provided by this section [Subsections (b) and (c)], the
15	sentences shall run concurrently.
16	(d)(1) This subsection applies only to a single criminal
17	action in which the accused is found guilty of:
18	(A) an offense under Section 20.05(a)(2) or an
19	offense under Section 20.06 involving conduct constituting an
20	offense under Section 20.05(a)(2); and
21	(B) an offense punishable under Section
22	22.01(b-4), 28.10, 30.02(c-2), 30.04(d)(3)(B), 30.05(d)(4), or
23	38.04(b-1) that arises out of the same criminal episode as the

offense described by Paragraph (A).

- 1 (2) The sentence for an offense described by
- 2 Subdivision (1)(A) may run consecutively with each sentence for an
- 3 offense described by Subdivision (1)(B).
- 4 (3) If the accused is found guilty of more than one
- 5 offense described by Subdivision (1)(A), the sentences for those
- 6 offenses must run concurrently with each other.
- 7 (e) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, if in a
- 8 single criminal action the accused is found guilty of more than one
- 9 offense arising out of the same criminal episode, the sentences may
- 10 run consecutively if each sentence is for a conviction of an offense
- 11 for which a plea agreement was reached in a case in which the
- 12 accused was charged with an offense described by Subsection
- 13 (d)(1)(A) and an offense described by Subsection (d)(1)(B). If the
- 14 accused is found guilty of more than one offense described by
- 15 Subsection (d)(1)(A), the sentences for those offenses must run
- 16 <u>concurrently with each other.</u>
- SECTION 2. If H.B. No. 165, Acts of the 88th Legislature,
- 18 Regular Session, 2023, does not become law, Section 3.03, Penal
- 19 Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections
- 20 (c) and (d) to read as follows:
- 21 (a) When the accused is found guilty of more than one
- 22 offense arising out of the same criminal episode prosecuted in a
- 23 single criminal action, a sentence for each offense for which $\underline{\text{the}}$
- 24 accused [he] has been found guilty shall be pronounced. Except as
- 25 otherwise provided by this section [Subsection (b)], the sentences
- 26 shall run concurrently.
- 27 (c)(1) This subsection applies only to a single criminal

- 1 <u>action in which the accused is found guilty of:</u>
- 2 (A) an offense under Section 20.05(a)(2) or an
- 3 offense under Section 20.06 involving conduct constituting an
- 4 offense under Section 20.05(a)(2); and
- 5 (B) an offense punishable under Section
- 6 22.01(b-4), 28.10, 30.02(c-2), 30.04(d)(3)(B), 30.05(d)(4), or
- 7 38.04(b-1) that arises out of the same criminal episode as the
- 8 offense described by Paragraph (A).
- 9 (2) The sentence for an offense described by
- 10 Subdivision (1)(A) may run consecutively with each sentence for an
- offense described by Subdivision (1)(B).
- 12 (3) If the accused is found guilty of more than one
- 13 offense described by Subdivision (1)(A), the sentences for those
- offenses must run concurrently with each other.
- 15 (d) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, if in a
- 16 <u>single criminal action the accused is found guilty of more than one</u>
- 17 offense arising out of the same criminal episode, the sentences may
- 18 run consecutively if each sentence is for a conviction of an offense
- 19 for which a plea agreement was reached in a case in which the
- 20 accused was charged with an offense described by Subsection
- 21 (c)(1)(A) and an offense described by Subsection (c)(1)(B). If the
- 22 accused is found guilty of more than one offense described by
- 23 Subsection (c)(1)(A), the sentences for those offenses must run
- 24 concurrently with each other.
- 25 SECTION 3. Section 12.50, Penal Code, is amended by
- 26 amending Subsections (a), (b), and (c) and adding Subsection (d) to
- 27 read as follows:

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H.B. No. 2
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(a) Subject to <u>Subsections</u> [<u>Subsection</u>] (c) <u>and (d)</u>, the
 1
    punishment for an offense described by Subsection (b) is increased
 2
    to the punishment prescribed for the next higher category of
 3
    offense if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the offense
 5
    was committed in an area that was, at the time of the offense:
 6
                (1)
                      subject to a declaration of a state of disaster
 7
    made by:
8
                      (A)
                            the president of the United States under the
    Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
    U.S.C. Section 5121 et seq.);
10
11
                      (B) the governor
                                              under
                                                       Section
                                                                  418.014,
    Government Code; or
12
                           the presiding officer of the governing body
13
14
    of a political subdivision under Section 418.108, Government Code;
15
    or
16
                      subject to an emergency evacuation order.
                (2)
17
           (b)
                The increase in punishment authorized by this section
    applies only to an offense under:
18
19
                (1)
                      Section 20.05;
                (2) Section 20.06;
20
21
                (3) Section 20.07;
                (4) Section 22.01;
22
23
                (5) [\frac{(2)}{(2)}] Section 28.02;
24
                (6) [\frac{(3)}{(3)}] Section 29.02;
                (7) [ \frac{(4)}{(4)} ] Section 30.02;
25
26
                (8) [\frac{(5)}{(5)}] Section 30.03;
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(9) $[\frac{(6)}{(6)}]$ Section 30.04;

- 1 (10) [(7)] Section 30.05; and
- 2 $(11) [\frac{(8)}{(8)}]$ Section 31.03.
- 3 (c) If an offense listed under Subsection (b) $[\frac{(b)(1)}{(5)}]_{t}$
- 4 + (6), (7), or (8)] is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor, the
- 5 minimum term of confinement for the offense is increased to 180
- 6 days. Except as provided by Subsection (d), if [If] an offense
- 7 listed under Subsection (b) $[\frac{(b)(2)}{(4)}, \frac{(4)}{(4)}, \frac{(8)}{(8)}]$ is punishable as a
- 8 felony of the first degree, the punishment for that offense may not
- 9 be increased under this section.
- 10 (d) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the
- 11 minimum term of imprisonment for an offense listed under Subsection
- 12 (b)(1), (2), or (3) for which punishment is increased under this
- 13 <u>section is 10 years. If an offense listed under Subsection (b)(1)</u>
- 14 or (2) is punishable as a felony of the first degree, the minimum
- 15 term of imprisonment is increased to 15 years unless another
- 16 provision of law applicable to the offense provides for a minimum
- 17 term of imprisonment of 15 years or more.
- 18 SECTION 4. Section 20.05, Penal Code, is amended by
- 19 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) to
- 20 read as follows:
- 21 (b) <u>Subject to Subsections (b-1) and (b-2), an</u> [An] offense
- 22 under this section is a felony of the third degree with a term of
- 23 <u>imprisonment of 10 years</u>, except that the offense is:
- 24 (1) a felony of the second degree with a minimum term
- 25 of imprisonment of 10 years if:
- 26 (A) the actor commits the offense in a manner
- 27 that creates a substantial likelihood that the smuggled individual

- 1 will suffer serious bodily injury or death;
- 2 (B) the smuggled individual is a child younger
- 3 than 18 years of age at the time of the offense;
- 4 (C) the offense was committed with the intent to
- 5 obtain a pecuniary benefit;
- 6 (D) during the commission of the offense the
- 7 actor, another party to the offense, or an individual assisted,
- 8 guided, or directed by the actor knowingly possessed a firearm; or
- 9 (E) the actor commits the offense under
- 10 Subsection (a)(1)(B); or
- 11 (2) a felony of the first degree with a minimum term of
- 12 imprisonment of 10 years if:
- 13 (A) it is shown on the trial of the offense that,
- 14 as a direct result of the commission of the offense, the smuggled
- 15 individual became a victim of sexual assault, as defined by Section
- 16 22.011, or aggravated sexual assault, as defined by Section 22.021;
- 17 or
- 18 (B) the smuggled individual suffered serious
- 19 bodily injury or death.
- 20 (b-1) If at the punishment stage of the trial or at the time
- 21 of entering a plea agreement for an offense under this section
- 22 punishable as a felony of the third degree, the attorney
- 23 representing the state in the prosecution of the offense certifies
- 24 to the court in writing that the actor has provided significant
- 25 cooperation to the state or law enforcement, and describes the
- 26 manner of cooperation, the minimum term of imprisonment is five
- 27 years. The certification is confidential and shall be sealed by the

- 1 court, except that the certification may be accessed by the office
- 2 of the attorney representing the state, the attorney representing
- 3 the defendant, and the court. For purposes of this subsection,
- 4 "significant cooperation" includes:
- 5 (1) testifying in a trial on behalf of the state
- 6 against other parties to the offense;
- 7 (2) providing relevant information regarding the case
- 8 and other parties to the offense;
- 9 (3) providing information that furthers the
- 10 investigation of the charged offense and any other parties
- 11 involved; or
- 12 (4) providing information that aids law enforcement.
- 13 (b-2) At the punishment stage of a trial of an offense under
- 14 this section, other than an offense punishable under Subsection
- 15 (b)(1)(A) or (b)(2), the actor may raise the issue as to whether the
- 16 <u>actor is related to the smuggled individual in the third or fourth</u>
- 17 degree of consanguinity or, at the time of the offense, in the third
- 18 or fourth degree of affinity. If the actor proves the issue in the
- 19 affirmative by a preponderance of the evidence, the offense is a
- 20 felony of the third degree with a minimum term of imprisonment of
- 21 <u>five years.</u>
- SECTION 5. Sections 20.06(e) and (f), Penal Code, are
- 23 amended to read as follows:
- (e) Except as provided by Subsections (f) and (g), an
- 25 offense under this section is a felony of the second degree with a
- 26 minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years.
- 27 (f) An offense under this section is a felony of the first

- 1 degree with a minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years if:
- 2 (1) the conduct constituting an offense under Section
- 3 20.05 is conducted in a manner that creates a substantial
- 4 likelihood that the smuggled individual will suffer serious bodily
- 5 injury or death; or
- 6 (2) the smuggled individual is a child younger than 18
- 7 years of age at the time of the offense.
- 8 SECTION 6. Section 20.07(b), Penal Code, is amended to read
- 9 as follows:
- 10 (b) An offense under this section is a <u>felony of the third</u>
- 11 degree with a minimum term of imprisonment of five years, except
- 12 that the offense is a felony of the second degree with a minimum
- 13 term of imprisonment of five years if:
- 14 (1) the offense is committed under Subsection (a)(1)
- 15 and the property that is the subject of the offense is used to
- 16 commit or facilitate the commission of an offense under Section
- 17 20.06, 20A.03, or 43.05; or
- 18 (2) it is shown on the trial of the offense that as a
- 19 direct result of the commission of the offense:
- 20 (A) an individual became a victim of sexual
- 21 assault, as defined by Section 22.011, or aggravated sexual
- 22 assault, as defined by Section 22.021; or
- 23 (B) an individual suffered serious bodily injury
- 24 or death [Class A misdemeanor].
- 25 SECTION 7. Section 22.01, Penal Code, is amended by adding
- 26 Subsection (b-4) to read as follows:
- 27 (b-4) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), an offense under

- 1 Subsection (a)(1) is a felony of the third degree if it is shown on
- 2 the trial of the offense that the actor committed the offense in the
- 3 course of committing an offense under Section 20.05(a)(2).
- 4 SECTION 8. Chapter 28, Penal Code, is amended by adding
- 5 Section 28.10 to read as follows:
- 6 Sec. 28.10. ENHANCED PENALTY FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANORS OR
- 7 STATE JAIL FELONIES. The punishment for an offense under this
- 8 chapter that is punishable as a misdemeanor or a state jail felony
- 9 is increased to the punishment for a felony of the third degree if
- 10 it is shown on the trial of the offense that the actor committed the
- 11 offense in the course of committing an offense under Section
- 12 20.05(a)(2).
- 13 SECTION 9. Section 30.02, Penal Code, is amended by
- 14 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (c-2) to read as
- 15 follows:
- (c) Except as provided in Subsection (c-1), (c-2), or (d),
- 17 an offense under this section is a:
- 18 (1) state jail felony if committed in a building other
- 19 than a habitation; or
- 20 (2) felony of the second degree if committed in a
- 21 habitation.
- 22 (c-2) An offense under this section is a felony of the third
- 23 <u>degree if:</u>
- 24 (1) the premises are a building other than a
- 25 habitation; and
- 26 (2) it is shown on the trial of the offense that the
- 27 actor committed the offense in the course of committing an offense

- 1 <u>under Section 20.05(a)(2).</u>
- 2 SECTION 10. Section 30.04(d), Penal Code, is amended to
- 3 read as follows:
- 4 (d) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor,
- 5 except that:
- 6 (1) the offense is a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum
- 7 term of confinement of six months if it is shown on the trial of the
- 8 offense that the defendant has been previously convicted of an
- 9 offense under this section;
- 10 (2) the offense is a state jail felony if:
- 11 (A) it is shown on the trial of the offense that
- 12 the defendant has been previously convicted two or more times of an
- 13 offense under this section; or
- 14 (B) the vehicle or part of the vehicle broken
- 15 into or entered is a rail car; and
- 16 (3) the offense is a felony of the third degree if:
- 17 (A) the vehicle broken into or entered is owned
- 18 or operated by a wholesale distributor of prescription drugs [+] and
- 19 $\left[\frac{B}{B}\right]$ the actor breaks into or enters that
- 20 vehicle with the intent to commit theft of a controlled substance;
- 21 <u>or</u>
- 22 (B) it is shown on the trial of the offense that
- 23 the actor committed the offense in the course of committing an
- 24 offense under Section 20.05(a)(2).
- SECTION 11. Section 30.05(d), Penal Code, is amended to
- 26 read as follows:
- 27 (d) Subject to Subsection (d-3), an offense under this

H.B. No. 2

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1
   section is:
               (1) a Class B misdemeanor, except as provided by
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 3
   Subdivisions (2), [and] (3), and (4);
 4
               (2) a Class C misdemeanor, except as provided by
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   Subdivisions [Subdivision] (3) and (4), if the offense
                                                                   is
   committed:
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 7
                    (A)
                         on agricultural land and within 100 feet of
8
   the boundary of the land; or
 9
                         on residential land and within 100 feet of a
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   protected freshwater area; [and]
               (3) a Class A misdemeanor, except as provided by
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12
   Subdivision (4), if:
                    (A)
                         the offense is committed:
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14
                          (i) in a habitation or a shelter center;
15
                          (ii) on a Superfund site; or
16
                          (iii) on or in a critical infrastructure
17
   facility;
                    (B) the offense is committed on or in property of
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   an institution of higher education and it is shown on the trial of
19
   the offense that the person has previously been convicted of:
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21
                          (i) an offense under this section relating
   to entering or remaining on or in property of an institution of
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23
   higher education; or
24
                          (ii) an offense under Section 51.204(b)(1),
   Education Code, relating to trespassing on the grounds of an
25
26
   institution of higher education;
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(C) the person carries a deadly weapon during the

- 1 commission of the offense; or
- 2 (D) the offense is committed on the property of
- 3 or within a general residential operation operating as a
- 4 residential treatment center; and
- 5 (4) a felony of the third degree if it is shown on the
- 6 trial of the offense that the defendant committed the offense in the
- 7 course of committing an offense under Section 20.05(a)(2).
- 8 SECTION 12. Section 38.04, Penal Code, is amended by adding
- 9 Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:
- 10 (b-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), an offense under this
- 11 section is a felony of the third degree if it is shown on the trial
- 12 of the offense that the actor committed the offense in the course of
- 13 committing an offense under Section 20.05(a)(2).
- 14 SECTION 13. The changes in law made by this Act apply only
- 15 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
- 16 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
- 17 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
- 18 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
- 19 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
- 20 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense was
- 21 committed before that date.
- 22 SECTION 14. This Act takes effect October 1, 2023.

ADOPTED

JUN 08 2023

Latay Saw Secretary of the Senate

By: Veter P. Hone

∠.B. No. 2

Substitute the Hollowing for H.B. No. 2:

By: VUTVI

c.s.±.B. No. 2

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

- 1 AN ACT
- 2 relating to the punishment for certain criminal conduct involving
- 3 the smuggling of persons or the operation of a stash house;
- 4 increasing criminal penalties.
- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
- 6 SECTION 1. If H.B. No. 165, Acts of the 88th Legislature,
- 7 Regular Session, 2023, becomes law, Section 3.03, Penal Code, as
- 8 effective September 1, 2023, is amended by amending Subsection (a)
- 9 and adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:
- 10 (a) When the accused is found guilty of more than one
- 11 offense arising out of the same criminal episode prosecuted in a
- 12 single criminal action, a sentence for each offense for which the
- 13 accused has been found guilty shall be pronounced. Except as
- 14 otherwise provided by this section [Subsections (b) and (c)], the
- 15 sentences shall run concurrently.
- (d)(1) This subsection applies only to a single criminal
- 17 <u>action in which the accused is found guilty of:</u>
- (A) an offense under Section 20.05(a)(2) or an
- 19 offense under Section 20.06 involving conduct constituting an
- 20 offense under Section 20.05(a)(2); and
- 21 (B) an offense punishable under Section
- 22 22.01(b-4), 28.10, 30.02(c-2), 30.04(d)(3)(B), 30.05(d)(4), or
- 23 38.04(b-1) that arises out of the same criminal episode as the
- 24 offense described by Paragraph (A).

- 1 (2) The sentence for an offense described by
- 2 Subdivision (1)(A) may run consecutively with each sentence for an
- 3 offense described by Subdivision (1)(B).
- 4 (3) If the accused is found guilty of more than one
- 5 offense described by Subdivision (1)(A), the sentences for those
- 6 offenses must run concurrently with each other.
- 7 (e) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, if in a
- 8 single criminal action the accused is found guilty of more than one
- 9 offense arising out of the same criminal episode, the sentences may
- 10 run consecutively if each sentence is for a conviction of an offense
- 11 for which a plea agreement was reached in a case in which the
- 12 accused was charged with an offense described by Subsection
- 13 (d)(1)(A) and an offense described by Subsection (d)(1)(B). If the
- 14 accused is found guilty of more than one offense described by
- 15 Subsection (d)(1)(A), the sentences for those offenses must run
- 16 concurrently with each other.
- SECTION 2. If H.B. No. 165, Acts of the 88th Legislature,
- 18 Regular Session, 2023, does not become law, Section 3.03, Penal
- 19 Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections
- 20 (c) and (d) to read as follows:
- 21 (a) When the accused is found guilty of more than one
- 22 offense arising out of the same criminal episode prosecuted in a
- 23 single criminal action, a sentence for each offense for which $\underline{\text{the}}$
- 24 <u>accused</u> [he] has been found guilty shall be pronounced. Except as
- 25 <u>otherwise</u> provided by <u>this section</u> [Subsection (b)], the sentences
- 26 shall run concurrently.
- (c)(1) This subsection applies only to a single criminal

- 1 action in which the accused is found guilty of:
- 2 (A) an offense under Section 20.05(a)(2) or an
- 3 offense under Section 20.06 involving conduct constituting an
- 4 offense under Section 20.05(a)(2); and
- 5 (B) an offense punishable under Section
- 6 22.01(b-4), 28.10, 30.02(c-2), 30.04(d)(3)(B), 30.05(d)(4), or
- 7 38.04(b-1) that arises out of the same criminal episode as the
- 8 offense described by Paragraph (A).
- 9 (2) The sentence for an offense described by
- 10 Subdivision (1)(A) may run consecutively with each sentence for an
- 11 offense described by Subdivision (1)(B).
- 12 (3) If the accused is found guilty of more than one
- 13 offense described by Subdivision (1)(A), the sentences for those
- 14 offenses must run concurrently with each other.
- 15 (d) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, if in a
- 16 single criminal action the accused is found guilty of more than one
- 17 offense arising out of the same criminal episode, the sentences may
- 18 run consecutively if each sentence is for a conviction of an offense
- 19 for which a plea agreement was reached in a case in which the
- 20 accused was charged with an offense described by Subsection
- 21 (c)(1)(A) and an offense described by Subsection (c)(1)(B). If the
- 22 accused is found guilty of more than one offense described by
- 23 Subsection (c)(1)(A), the sentences for those offenses must run
- 24 <u>concurrently with each other.</u>
- 25 SECTION 3. Section 12.50, Penal Code, is amended by
- 26 amending Subsections (a), (b), and (c) and adding Subsection (d) to
- 27 read as follows:

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punishment for an offense described by Subsection (b) is increased
 2
    to the punishment prescribed for the next higher category of
    offense if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the offense
    was committed in an area that was, at the time of the offense:
 5
 6
                (1) subject to a declaration of a state of disaster
7
    made by:
8
                          the president of the United States under the
9
    Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
    U.S.C. Section 5121 et seq.);
10
11
                     (B)
                          the governor
                                             under
                                                     Section
                                                                418.014,
12
    Government Code; or
13
                     (C)
                          the presiding officer of the governing body
14
    of a political subdivision under Section 418.108, Government Code;
15
16
                     subject to an emergency evacuation order.
                (2)
17
          (b)
               The increase in punishment authorized by this section
18
    applies only to an offense under:
                (1)
19
                     Section 20.05;
20
                (2) Section 20.06;
21
                (3) Section 20.07;
22
                (4) Section 22.01;
23
                (5) [\frac{(2)}{(2)}] Section 28.02;
24
                (6) [\frac{(3)}{(3)}] Section 29.02;
25
                (7) [(4)] Section 30.02;
26
                (8) [\frac{(5)}{(5)}] Section 30.03;
27
                (9) [(6)] Section 30.04;
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Subject to Subsections [Subsection] (c) and (d), the

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(10) [\frac{(7)}{}] Section 30.05; and
1
2
                (11) [\frac{(8)}{}] Section 31.03.
3
               If an offense listed under Subsection (b) [\frac{b}{1}, \frac{5}{7}]
          (c)
   (6), (7), or (8)] is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor, the
4
```

- minimum term of confinement for the offense is increased to 180
- Except as provided by Subsection (d), if [#] an offense 6
- 7 listed under Subsection (b) $[\frac{(b)(2)}{(4)}, \frac{(4)}{(4)}, \frac{(8)}{(8)}]$ is punishable as a
- felony of the first degree, the punishment for that offense may not 8
- be increased under this section. 9
- (d) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the 10
- 11 minimum term of imprisonment for an offense listed under Subsection
- (b)(1), (2), or (3) for which punishment is increased under this 12
- 13 section is 10 years. If an offense listed under Subsection (b)(1)
- or (2) is punishable as a felony of the first degree, the minimum 14
- term of imprisonment is increased to 15 years unless another 15
- 16 provision of law applicable to the offense provides for a minimum
- term of imprisonment of 15 years or more. 17
- 18 SECTION 4. Section 20.05, Penal Code, is amended by
- amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as 19
- 20 follows:
- 21 Subject to Subsection (b-1), an [An] offense under this
- 22 section is a felony of the third degree with a term of imprisonment
- 23 of 10 years, except that the offense is:
- 24 (1)a felony of the second degree with a minimum term
- 25 of imprisonment of 10 years if:
- (A) the actor commits the offense in a manner 26
- that creates a substantial likelihood that the smuggled individual 27

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1 will suffer serious bodily injury or death;
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- 2 (B) the smuggled individual is a child younger
- 3 than 18 years of age at the time of the offense;
- 4 (C) the offense was committed with the intent to
- 5 obtain a pecuniary benefit;
- 6 (D) during the commission of the offense the
- 7 actor, another party to the offense, or an individual assisted,
- 8 guided, or directed by the actor knowingly possessed a firearm; or
- 9 (E) the actor commits the offense under
- 10 Subsection (a)(1)(B); or
- 11 (2) a felony of the first degree with a minimum term of
- 12 imprisonment of 10 years if:
- 13 (A) it is shown on the trial of the offense that,
- 14 as a direct result of the commission of the offense, the smuggled
- 15 individual became a victim of sexual assault, as defined by Section
- 16 22.011, or aggravated sexual assault, as defined by Section 22.021;
- 17 or
- 18 (B) the smuggled individual suffered serious
- 19 bodily injury or death.
- 20 (b-1) If at the punishment stage of the trial or at the time
- 21 of entering a plea agreement for an offense under this section
- 22 punishable as a felony of the third degree, the attorney
- 23 representing the state in the prosecution of the offense certifies
- 24 to the court in writing that the actor has provided significant
- 25 cooperation to the state or law enforcement, and describes the
- 26 manner of cooperation, the minimum term of imprisonment is five
- 27 years. The certification is confidential and shall be sealed by the

- court, except that the certification may be accessed by the office
- 2 of the attorney representing the state, the attorney representing
- 3 the defendant, and the court. For purposes of this subsection,
- 4 "significant cooperation" includes:
- 5 <u>(1) testifying in a trial on behalf of the state</u>
- 6 against other parties to the offense;
- 7 (2) providing relevant information regarding the case
- 8 and other parties to the offense;
- 9 (3) providing information that furthers the
- 10 investigation of the charged offense and any other parties
- 11 involved; or
- 12 (4) providing information that aids law enforcement.
- SECTION 5. Sections 20.06(e) and (f), Penal Code, are
- 14 amended to read as follows:
- (e) Except as provided by Subsections (f) and (g), an
- 16 offense under this section is a felony of the second degree with a
- 17 minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years.
- 18 (f) An offense under this section is a felony of the first
- 19 degree with a minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years if:
- 20 (1) the conduct constituting an offense under Section
- 21 20.05 is conducted in a manner that creates a substantial
- 22 likelihood that the smuggled individual will suffer serious bodily
- 23 injury or death; or
- 24 (2) the smuggled individual is a child younger than 18
- 25 years of age at the time of the offense.
- SECTION 6. Section 20.07(b), Penal Code, is amended to read
- 27 as follows:

- 1 (b) An offense under this section is a <u>felony of the third</u>
- 2 degree with a minimum term of imprisonment of five years, except
- 3 that the offense is a felony of the second degree with a minimum
- 4 term of imprisonment of five years if:
- 5 (1) the offense is committed under Subsection (a)(1)
- 6 and the property that is the subject of the offense is used to
- 7 commit or facilitate the commission of an offense under Section
- 8 20.06, 20A.03, or 43.05; or
- 9 (2) it is shown on the trial of the offense that as a
- 10 direct result of the commission of the offense:
- (A) an individual became a victim of sexual
- 12 assault, as defined by Section 22.011, or aggravated sexual
- assault, as defined by Section 22.021; or
- 14 (B) an individual suffered serious bodily injury
- 15 <u>or death</u> [Class A misdemeanor].
- SECTION 7. Section 22.01, Penal Code, is amended by adding
- 17 Subsection (b-4) to read as follows:
- 18 (b-4) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), an offense under
- 19 Subsection (a)(1) is a felony of the third degree if it is shown on
- 20 the trial of the offense that the actor committed the offense in the
- 21 course of committing an offense under Section 20.05(a)(2).
- 22 SECTION 8. Chapter 28, Penal Code, is amended by adding
- 23 Section 28.10 to read as follows:
- 24 Sec. 28.10. ENHANCED PENALTY FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANORS OR
- 25 STATE JAIL FELONIES. The punishment for an offense under this
- 26 chapter that is punishable as a misdemeanor or a state jail felony
- 27 is increased to the punishment for a felony of the third degree if

- 1 it is shown on the trial of the offense that the actor committed the
- 2 offense in the course of committing an offense under Section
- 3 20.05(a)(2).
- 4 SECTION 9. Section 30.02, Penal Code, is amended by
- 5 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (c-2) to read as
- 6 follows:
- 7 (c) Except as provided in Subsection (c-1), (c-2), or (d),
- 8 an offense under this section is a:
- 9 (1) state jail felony if committed in a building other
- 10 than a habitation; or
- 11 (2) felony of the second degree if committed in a
- 12 habitation.
- 13 (c-2) An offense under this section is a felony of the third
- 14 degree if:
- (1) the premises are a building other than a
- 16 habitation; and
- 17 (2) it is shown on the trial of the offense that the
- 18 actor committed the offense in the course of committing an offense
- 19 under Section 20.05(a)(2).
- SECTION 10. Section 30.04(d), Penal Code, is amended to
- 21 read as follows:
- 22 (d) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor,
- 23 except that:
- 24 (1) the offense is a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum
- 25 term of confinement of six months if it is shown on the trial of the
- 26 offense that the defendant has been previously convicted of an
- 27 offense under this section;

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1 (2) the offense is a state jail felony if:
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- 2 (A) it is shown on the trial of the offense that
- 3 the defendant has been previously convicted two or more times of an
- 4 offense under this section; or
- 5 (B) the vehicle or part of the vehicle broken
- 6 into or entered is a rail car; and
- 7 (3) the offense is a felony of the third degree if:
- 8 (A) the vehicle broken into or entered is owned
- 9 or operated by a wholesale distributor of prescription drugs[+] and
- 10 [(B)] the actor breaks into or enters that
- 11 vehicle with the intent to commit theft of a controlled substance;
- 12 or
- (B) it is shown on the trial of the offense that
- 14 the actor committed the offense in the course of committing an
- offense under Section 20.05(a)(2).
- SECTION 11. Section 30.05(d), Penal Code, is amended to
- 17 read as follows:
- 18 (d) Subject to Subsection (d-3), an offense under this
- 19 section is:
- 20 (1) a Class B misdemeanor, except as provided by
- 21 Subdivisions (2), [and] (3), and (4);
- 22 (2) a Class C misdemeanor, except as provided by
- 23 <u>Subdivisions</u> [Subdivision] (3) and (4), if the offense is
- 24 committed:
- 25 (A) on agricultural land and within 100 feet of
- 26 the boundary of the land; or
- 27 (B) on residential land and within 100 feet of a

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protected freshwater area; [and]
2
               (3) a Class A misdemeanor, except as provided by
   Subdivision (4), if:
 3
                         the offense is committed:
                     (A)
 4
                          (i) in a habitation or a shelter center;
5
                          (ii) on a Superfund site; or
6
                          (iii) on or in a critical infrastructure
7
8
   facility;
                     (B)
                         the offense is committed on or in property of
9
10
    an institution of higher education and it is shown on the trial of
    the offense that the person has previously been convicted of:
11
12
                          (i) an offense under this section relating
    to entering or remaining on or in property of an institution of
13
   higher education; or
14
                          (ii) an offense under Section 51.204(b)(1),
15
    Education Code, relating to trespassing on the grounds of an
16
    institution of higher education;
17
                     (C) the person carries a deadly weapon during the
18
    commission of the offense; or
19
                     (D) the offense is committed on the property of
20
        within
                a general residential operation operating as
21
22
    residential treatment center; and
               (4) a felony of the third degree if it is shown on the
23
24
    trial of the offense that the defendant committed the offense in the
25
    course of committing an offense under Section 20.05(a)(2).
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Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

26

27

SECTION 12. Section 38.04, Penal Code, is amended by adding

- 1 (b-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), an offense under this
- 2 section is a felony of the third degree if it is shown on the trial
- 3 of the offense that the actor committed the offense in the course of
- 4 committing an offense under Section 20.05(a)(2).
- 5 SECTION 13. The changes in law made by this Act apply only
- 6 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
- 7 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
- 8 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
- 9 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
- 10 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
- 11 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense was
- 12 committed before that date.
- SECTION 14. This Act takes effect October 1, 2023.

Shird Reading

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO.

JUN 0 8 2023

Hatsy Secretify of the Senate

BY: D. Hung-

- 1 Amend H.B. No. 2 (senate committee report) as follows:
- (1) On page 3, line 8, strike "Subsection (b-1)" and 2
- substitute "Subsections (b-1) and (b-2)". 3
- (2) On page 3, line 11, strike "Subsection (b-1)" and 4
- substitute "Subsections (b-1) and (b-2)". 5
- (3) On page 3, between lines 56 and 57, insert the following: 6
- 7 (b-2) At the punishment stage of a trial of an offense under
- this section, other than an offense punishable under Subsection 8
- 9 (b) (1) (A), (C), or (D) or (b) (2), the actor may raise the issue as
- 10 to whether the actor is related to the smuggled individual in the
- third degree of consanguinity or, at the time of the offense, in 11
- the third degree of affinity. If the actor proves the issue in the 12
- affirmative by a preponderance of the evidence, the offense is a 13
- 14 felony of the third degree with a minimum term of imprisonment of
- 15 five years.

FISCAL NOTE, 88TH LEGISLATURE 1st CALLED SESSION 2023

June 8, 2023

TO: Honorable Dade Phelan, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2 by Guillen (Relating to the punishment for certain criminal conduct involving the smuggling of persons or the operation of a stash house; increasing criminal penalties.), **As Passed 2nd House**

Increasing the penalty for an existing offense may result in additional demands upon state correctional resources due to a possible increase in the number of individuals confined and in the length of stay for individuals sentenced to a term of confinement. The fiscal implications of the bill cannot be determined due to the lack of data to estimate the prevalence of conduct that would be subject to an increased criminal penalty under the bill's provisions.

The bill would provide for punishment at the next highest category of offense with a ten year minimum term of imprisonment for the offenses of smuggling of persons, continuous smuggling of persons, and operation of a stash house when the offense is committed in a disaster or evacuated area, except that the minimum term of imprisonment would be fifteen years if the smuggling of persons or continuous smuggling of persons offense is a first degree felony. The bill would provide felony punishment enhancements and consecutive sentencing for certain offenses when committed in the course of smuggling of persons into this country in violation of federal law. The impact on state correctional populations or on the demand for state correctional resources related to these increased penalties cannot be determined due to the lack of data to estimate the prevalence of conduct that would be subject to an increased criminal penalty under the bill's provisions.

The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to ten years for the offenses of smuggling of persons and continuous smuggling of persons, except that the minimum term of imprisonment for the offense of smuggling of persons would be five years under certain conditions. The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to five years for the offense of operation of a stash house and make it punishable as a third degree felony or as a second degree felony under certain conditions. The average length of stay for an individual released from prison in fiscal year 2022 for the offenses of smuggling of persons and continuous smuggling of persons was approximately 1.0 year. The estimated impact on adult correctional populations would follow both the fiscal year 2022 observed rate of admission to prison and the average time between offense and admission to prison for these smuggling offenses. The impact on state correctional populations related to the increased minimum terms of confinement could be significant due to the increased terms of confinement and the subsequent compounding increase in demand for prison bed capacity.

Based on the February 2023 *Criminal and Juvenile Justice Uniform Cost Report*, the uniform cost per day for an adult incarcerated in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice systemwide facility was \$77.49.

Local Government Impact

While the fiscal impact to units of local government cannot be determined, increasing the penalty for an existing offense may result in additional demands upon local correctional resources due to a possible increase in the number of individuals placed under supervision in the community or sentenced to a term of confinement.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

FISCAL NOTE, 88TH LEGISLATURE 1st CALLED SESSION 2023

June 6, 2023

TO: Honorable Brian Birdwell, Chair, Senate Committee on Border Security

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2 by Guillen (relating to the punishment for certain criminal conduct involving the smuggling of persons or the operation of a stash house; increasing criminal penalties.), Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted

Increasing the penalty for an existing offense may result in additional demands upon state correctional resources due to a possible increase in the number of individuals confined and in the length of stay for individuals sentenced to a term of confinement. The fiscal implications of the bill cannot be determined due to the lack of data to estimate the prevalence of conduct that would be subject to an increased criminal penalty under the bill's provisions.

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The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to ten years for the offenses of smuggling of persons and continuous smuggling of persons, except that the minimum term of imprisonment for the offense of smuggling of persons would be five years if the actor provided certain significant cooperation to the state or law enforcement. The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to five years for the offense of operation of a stash house and make it punishable as a third degree felony or as a second degree felony under certain conditions. The average length of stay for an individual released from prison in fiscal year 2022 for the offenses of smuggling of persons and continuous smuggling of persons was approximately 1.0 year. The estimated impact on adult correctional populations would follow both the fiscal year 2022 observed rate of admission to prison and the average time between offense and admission to prison for these smuggling offenses. The impact on state correctional populations related to the increased minimum terms of confinement could be significant due to the increased terms of confinement and the subsequent compounding increase in demand for prison bed capacity.

Based on the February 2023 Criminal and Juvenile Justice Uniform Cost Report, the uniform cost per day for an adult incarcerated in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice systemwide facility was \$77.49.

Local Government Impact

While the fiscal impact to units of local government cannot be determined, increasing the penalty for an existing offense may result in additional demands upon local correctional resources due to a possible increase in the number of individuals placed under supervision in the community or sentenced to a term of confinement.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

LBB Staff: JMc, DDel, LBO, ESch, CMA, SMAT, DGI

FISCAL NOTE, 88TH LEGISLATURE 1st CALLED SESSION 2023

June 5, 2023

TO: Honorable Brian Birdwell, Chair, Senate Committee on Border Security

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2 by Guillen (Relating to the punishment for certain criminal conduct involving the smuggling of persons or the operation of a stash house; increasing criminal penalties.), As Engrossed

Increasing the penalty for an existing offense may result in additional demands upon state correctional resources due to a possible increase in the number of individuals confined and in the length of stay for individuals sentenced to a term of confinement. The fiscal implications of the bill cannot be determined due to the lack of data to estimate the prevalence of conduct that would be subject to an increased criminal penalty under the bill's provisions.

The bill would provide for punishment at the next highest category of offense with a ten year minimum term of imprisonment for the offenses of smuggling of persons, continuous smuggling of persons, and operation of a stash house when the offense is committed in a disaster or evacuated area, except that the minimum term of imprisonment would be fifteen years if the smuggling of persons or continuous smuggling of persons offense is a first degree felony. The bill would provide felony punishment enhancements and consecutive sentencing for certain offenses when committed in the course of smuggling of persons into this country in violation of federal law. The impact on state correctional populations or on the demand for state correctional resources related to these increased penalties cannot be determined due to the lack of data to estimate the prevalence of conduct that would be subject to an increased criminal penalty under the bill's provisions.

The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to ten years for the offenses of smuggling of persons and continuous smuggling of persons, except that the minimum term of imprisonment for the offense of smuggling of persons would be five years under certain conditions. The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to five years for the offense of operation of a stash house and make it punishable as a third degree felony or as a second degree felony under certain conditions. The average length of stay for an individual released from prison in fiscal year 2022 for the offenses of smuggling of persons and continuous smuggling of persons was approximately 1.0 year. The estimated impact on adult correctional populations would follow both the fiscal year 2022 observed rate of admission to prison and the average time between offense and admission to prison for these smuggling offenses. The impact on state correctional populations related to the increased minimum terms of confinement could be significant due to the increased terms of confinement and the subsequent compounding increase in demand for prison bed capacity.

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Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

LBB Staff: JMc, DDel, LBO, ESch, CMA, SMAT, DGI

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FISCAL NOTE, 88TH LEGISLATURE 1st CALLED SESSION 2023

May 30, 2023

TO: Honorable Todd Hunter, Chair, House Committee on State Affairs

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2 by Guillen (Relating to the punishment for certain criminal conduct involving the smuggling of persons or the operation of a stash house; increasing criminal penalties.), As Introduced

Increasing the penalty for an existing offense may result in additional demands upon state correctional resources due to a possible increase in the number of individuals confined and in the length of stay for individuals sentenced to a term of confinement. The fiscal implications of the bill cannot be determined due to the lack of data to estimate the prevalence of conduct that would be subject to an increased criminal penalty under the bill's provisions.

The bill would provide for punishment at the next highest category of offense with a ten year minimum term of imprisonment for the offenses of smuggling of persons, continuous smuggling of persons, and operation of a stash house when the offense is committed in a disaster or evacuated area, except that the minimum term of imprisonment would be fifteen years if the smuggling of persons or continuous smuggling of persons offense is a first degree felony. The bill would provide felony punishment enhancements and consecutive sentencing for certain offenses when committed in the course of smuggling of persons into this country in violation of federal law. The impact on state correctional populations or on the demand for state correctional resources related to these increased penalties cannot be determined due to the lack of data to estimate the prevalence of conduct that would be subject to an increased criminal penalty under the bill's provisions.

The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to ten years for the offenses of smuggling of persons and continuous smuggling of persons, except that the minimum term of imprisonment for the offense of smuggling of persons would be five years if the actor provided certain significant cooperation to the state or law enforcement. The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to five years for the offense of operation of a stash house and make it punishable as a third degree felony or as a second degree felony under certain conditions. The average length of stay for an individual released from prison in fiscal year 2022 for the offenses of smuggling of persons and continuous smuggling of persons was approximately 1.0 year. The estimated impact on adult correctional populations would follow both the fiscal year 2022 observed rate of admission to prison and the average time between offense and admission to prison for these smuggling offenses. The impact on state correctional populations related to the increased minimum terms of confinement could be significant due to the increased terms of confinement and the subsequent compounding increase in demand for prison bed capacity.

Based on the February 2023 Criminal and Juvenile Justice Uniform Cost Report, the uniform cost per day for an adult incarcerated in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice systemwide facility was \$77.49.

Local Government Impact

While the fiscal impact to units of local government cannot be determined, increasing the penalty for an existing offense may result in additional demands upon local correctional resources due to a possible increase in the number of individuals placed under supervision in the community or sentenced to a term of confinement.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

LBB Staff: JMc, CMA, LBO, ESch, SMAT, DDel, DGI

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT STATEMENT

88TH LEGISLATURE 1st CALLED SESSION 2023

June 6, 2023

TO: Honorable Brian Birdwell, Chair, Senate Committee on Border Security

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2 by Guillen (relating to the punishment for certain criminal conduct involving the smuggling of persons or the operation of a stash house; increasing criminal penalties.), Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted

The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to ten years for the offenses of smuggling of persons and continuous smuggling of persons, except that the minimum term of imprisonment for the offense of smuggling of persons would be five years if the actor provided certain significant cooperation to the state or law enforcement. The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to five years for the offense of operation of a stash house and make it punishable as a third degree felony or as a second degree felony under certain conditions. The bill would provide for punishment at the next highest category of offense with a ten year minimum term of imprisonment for the offenses of smuggling of persons, continuous smuggling of persons, and operation of a stash house when the offense is committed in a disaster or evacuated area, except that the minimum term of imprisonment would be fifteen years if the smuggling of persons or continuous smuggling of persons offense is a first degree felony. The bill would provide felony punishment enhancements and consecutive sentencing for certain offenses when committed in the course of smuggling of persons into this country in violation of federal law.

Increasing the penalty for an existing offense may result in additional demands upon state correctional resources due to a possible increase in the number of individuals confined and in the length of stay for individuals sentenced to a term of confinement.

In fiscal year 2022, there were 6,599 individuals arrested, 202 individuals placed on adult community supervision, and 150 individuals admitted to an adult state correctional institution for felony smuggling of persons and continuous smuggling of persons offenses which would be subject to a minimum ten year term of imprisonment under the bill's provisions. There were 116 individuals arrested and 1 individual placed on adult community supervision for the offense of operation of a stash house which would be punishable as a third degree felony with a minimum five year term of imprisonment under the bill's provisions.

In fiscal year 2022, there were 106,193 individuals arrested, 12,517 individuals placed on adult community supervision, 8,855 individuals placed on juvenile community supervision, 1,331 individuals admitted to an adult state correctional institution, and 98 individuals admitted to a juvenile state correctional institution for an offense that may have been eligible for an increased penalty under the bill's provisions. However, it is unknown how many of these cases included conduct eligible for an increased penalty under the bill's provisions.

The impact on state correctional populations or on the demand for state correctional resources cannot be determined due to the lack of data to estimate the prevalence of conduct that would be subject to an increased criminal penalty under the bill's provisions.

Source	
Agencies	:

LBB Staff: JMc, DDel, CMA, ESch, LBO, DGI, SMAT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT STATEMENT

88TH LEGISLATURE 1st CALLED SESSION 2023

June 5, 2023

TO: Honorable Brian Birdwell, Chair, Senate Committee on Border Security

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2 by Guillen (Relating to the punishment for certain criminal conduct involving the smuggling of persons or the operation of a stash house; increasing criminal penalties.), As Engrossed

The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to ten years for the offenses of smuggling of persons and continuous smuggling of persons, except that the minimum term of imprisonment for the offense of smuggling of persons would be five years under certain conditions. The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to five years for the offense of operation of a stash house and make it punishable as a third degree felony or as a second degree felony under certain conditions. The bill would provide for punishment at the next highest category of offense with a ten year minimum term of imprisonment for the offenses of smuggling of persons, continuous smuggling of persons, and operation of a stash house when the offense is committed in a disaster or evacuated area, except that the minimum term of imprisonment would be fifteen years if the smuggling of persons or continuous smuggling of persons offense is a first degree felony. The bill would provide felony punishment enhancements and consecutive sentencing for certain offenses when committed in the course of smuggling of persons into this country in violation of federal law.

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The impact on state correctional populations or on the demand for state correctional resources cannot be determined due to the lack of data to estimate the prevalence of conduct that would be subject to an increased criminal penalty under the bill's provisions.

Source Agencies:

LBB Staff: JMc, DDel, LBO, ESch, CMA, DGI, SMAT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT STATEMENT

88TH LEGISLATURE 1st CALLED SESSION 2023

May 30, 2023

TO: Honorable Todd Hunter, Chair, House Committee on State Affairs

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2 by Guillen (Relating to the punishment for certain criminal conduct involving the smuggling of persons or the operation of a stash house; increasing criminal penalties.), As Introduced

The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to ten years for the offenses of smuggling of persons and continuous smuggling of persons, except that the minimum term of imprisonment for the offense of smuggling of persons would be five years if the actor provided certain significant cooperation to the state or law enforcement. The bill would increase the minimum term of imprisonment to five years for the offense of operation of a stash house and make it punishable as a third degree felony or as a second degree felony under certain conditions. The bill would provide for punishment at the next highest category of offense with a ten year minimum term of imprisonment for the offenses of smuggling of persons, continuous smuggling of persons, and operation of a stash house when the offense is committed in a disaster or evacuated area, except that the minimum term of imprisonment would be fifteen years if the smuggling of persons or continuous smuggling of persons offense is a first degree felony. The bill would provide felony punishment enhancements and consecutive sentencing for certain offenses when committed in the course of smuggling of persons into this country in violation of federal law.

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Source Agencies:

LBB Staff: JMc, CMA, LBO, ESch, DDel, DGI, SMAT