

By: Cook

H.B. No. 72

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the punishment for the offense of trafficking of
3 persons.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 20A.02(b), Penal Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection and
8 Subsection (b-1), an offense under this section is a felony of the
9 second degree. An offense under this section is a felony of the
10 first degree if:

11 (1) the applicable conduct constitutes an offense
12 under Subsection (a)(5), (6), (7), or (8), regardless of whether
13 the actor knows the age of the child at the time of the offense;

14 (2) the commission of the offense results in the death
15 of the person who is trafficked;

16 (3) the commission of the offense results in the death
17 of an unborn child of the person who is trafficked; or

18 (4) the actor recruited, enticed, or obtained the
19 trafficked person [~~victim of the offense~~] from a:

20 (A) shelter or facility operating as a
21 residential treatment center that serves runaway youth, foster
22 children, the homeless, or persons subjected to human trafficking,
23 domestic violence, or sexual assault; or

24 (B) correctional facility while the trafficked

1 person was confined in the facility.

2 SECTION 2. 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 3. This Act takes effect on the 91st day after the
11 last day of the legislative session.