By:  Shaheen (Senate Sponsor - King) H.B. No. 1833

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 8, 2023; May 9, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice; May 21, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 21, 2023, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Whitmire        X

Flores          X

Bettencourt     X

Hinojosa        X

Huffman         X

King            X

Miles           X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1833 By:  Flores

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to increasing the criminal penalty for the offense of criminal mischief involving a critical infrastructure facility or public power supply.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 28.03, Penal Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (l) to read as follows:

(b)  Except as provided by Subsections (f), [~~and~~] (h), and (l), an offense under this section is:

(1)  a Class C misdemeanor if:

(A)  the amount of pecuniary loss is less than $100; or

(B)  except as provided in Subdivision (3)(A) or (3)(B), it causes substantial inconvenience to others;

(2)  a Class B misdemeanor if the amount of pecuniary loss is $100 or more but less than $750;

(3)  a Class A misdemeanor if:

(A)  the amount of pecuniary loss is $750 or more but less than $2,500; or

(B)  the actor causes in whole or in part impairment or interruption of any public water supply, or causes to be diverted in whole, in part, or in any manner, including installation or removal of any device for any such purpose, any public water supply, regardless of the amount of the pecuniary loss;

(4)  a state jail felony if the amount of pecuniary loss is:

(A)  $2,500 or more but less than $30,000;

(B)  less than $2,500, if the property damaged or destroyed is a habitation and if the damage or destruction is caused by a firearm or explosive weapon;

(C)  less than $2,500, if the property was a fence used for the production or containment of:

(i)  cattle, bison, horses, sheep, swine, goats, exotic livestock, or exotic poultry; or

(ii)  game animals as that term is defined by Section 63.001, Parks and Wildlife Code; or

(D)  less than $30,000 and the actor:

(i)  causes wholly or partly impairment or interruption of property used for flood control purposes or a dam or of public communications, public transportation, public gas [~~or power~~] supply, or other public service; or

(ii)  causes to be diverted wholly, partly, or in any manner, including installation or removal of any device for any such purpose, any public communications or public gas [~~or power~~] supply;

(5)  a felony of the third degree if:

(A)  the amount of the pecuniary loss is $30,000 or more but less than $150,000;

(B)  the actor, by discharging a firearm or other weapon or by any other means, causes the death of one or more head of cattle or bison or one or more horses; [~~or~~]

(C)  the actor causes wholly or partly impairment or interruption of access to an automated teller machine, regardless of the amount of the pecuniary loss; or

(D)  the amount of pecuniary loss is less than $150,000 and the actor:

(i)  causes wholly or partly impairment of a critical infrastructure facility or interruption of the operations of a critical infrastructure facility; or

(ii)  causes to be diverted wholly, partly, or in any manner, including installation or removal of any device for any such purpose, any public power supply;

(6)  a felony of the second degree if the amount of pecuniary loss is $150,000 or more but less than $300,000; or

(7)  a felony of the first degree if the amount of pecuniary loss is $300,000 or more.

(l)  An offense under this section is:

(1)  a felony of the second degree if:

(A)  the tangible property damaged, destroyed, or tampered with is a critical infrastructure facility; and

(B)  the actor causes an extended power outage; or

(2)  a felony of the first degree if:

(A)  the tangible property damaged, destroyed, or tampered with is a critical infrastructure facility;

(B)  the actor causes an extended power outage; and

(C)  either:

(i)  the amount of pecuniary damage to the critical infrastructure facility is $100,000 or more; or

(ii)  the actor uses a firearm, drone, cyber attack, or explosive weapon in the commission of the offense.

SECTION 2.  Section 28.03(g), Penal Code, is amended by adding Subdivisions (10), (11), (12), and (13) to read as follows:

(10)  "Critical infrastructure facility" means an electrical power generating facility, substation, switching station, electrical control center, or electrical transmission or distribution facility.

(11)  "Cyber attack" means an attempt to damage, disrupt, or gain unauthorized access to a computer, computer network, or computer system.

(12)  "Drone" has the meaning assigned by Article 2.33, Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by Chapter 1011 (H.B. 1758), Acts of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021.

(13)  "Extended power outage" means a power outage:

(A)  lasting for two hours or more; or

(B)  affecting 1,000 or more meters used to measure electric energy consumption by retail customers.

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

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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