88R11794 JSC-D

By:  Garcia H.B. No. 2601

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the criminal penalties for possession of marihuana.

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

SECTION 1.  Sections 481.121(b) and (c), Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b)  An offense under Subsection (a) is:

(1)  a Class C [~~B misdemeanor if the amount of marihuana possessed is two ounces or less;~~

[~~(2) a Class A~~] misdemeanor if the amount of marihuana possessed is four ounces or less [~~but more than two ounces~~];

(2) [~~(3)~~]  a state jail felony if the amount of marihuana possessed is five pounds or less but more than four ounces;

(3) [~~(4)~~]  a felony of the third degree if the amount of marihuana possessed is 50 pounds or less but more than 5 pounds;

(4) [~~(5)~~]  a felony of the second degree if the amount of marihuana possessed is 2,000 pounds or less but more than 50 pounds; and

(5) [~~(6)~~]  punishable by imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for life or for a term of not more than 99 years or less than 5 years, and a fine not to exceed $50,000, if the amount of marihuana possessed is more than 2,000 pounds.

(c)  It is a defense to prosecution for an offense punishable under Subsection (b)(1) [~~or (2)~~] that the actor:

(1)  was the first person to request emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of another person and:

(A)  made the request for medical assistance during an ongoing medical emergency;

(B)  remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

(C)  cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel; or

(2)  was the victim of a possible overdose for which emergency medical assistance was requested, by the actor or by another person, during an ongoing medical emergency.

SECTION 2.  Article 14.06(d), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(d)  Subsection (c) applies only to a person charged with committing an offense under:

(1)  [~~Section 481.121, Health and Safety Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (b)(1) or (2) of that section;~~

[~~(1-a)~~] Section 481.1161, Health and Safety Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (b)(1) or (2) of that section;

(2)  Section 28.03, Penal Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (b)(2) of that section;

(3)  Section 28.08, Penal Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (b)(2) or (3) of that section;

(4)  Section 31.03, Penal Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (e)(2)(A) of that section;

(5)  Section 31.04, Penal Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (e)(2) of that section;

(6)  Section 38.114, Penal Code, if the offense is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor; or

(7)  Section 521.457, Transportation Code.

SECTION 3.  Articles 42A.551(a) and (c), Code of Criminal Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

(a)  Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (b) or (c), on conviction of a state jail felony under Section 481.115(b), 481.1151(b)(1), 481.116(b), 481.1161(b)(3), 481.121(b)(2) [~~481.121(b)(3)~~], or 481.129(g)(1), Health and Safety Code, that is punished under Section 12.35(a), Penal Code, the judge shall suspend the imposition of the sentence and place the defendant on community supervision.

(c)  Subsection (a) does not apply to a defendant who:

(1)  under Section 481.1151(b)(1), Health and Safety Code, possessed more than five abuse units of the controlled substance;

(2)  under Section 481.1161(b)(3), Health and Safety Code, possessed more than one pound, by aggregate weight, including adulterants or dilutants, of the controlled substance; or

(3)  under Section 481.121(b)(2) [~~481.121(b)(3)~~], Health and Safety Code, possessed more than one pound of marihuana.

SECTION 4.  Section 411.0728(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  This section applies only to a person:

(1)  who is convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense under:

(A)  Section 481.120, Health and Safety Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (b)(1);

(B)  [~~Section 481.121, Health and Safety Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (b)(1);~~

[~~(C)~~] Section 31.03, Penal Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (e)(1) or (2); or

(C) [~~(D)~~]  Section 43.02, Penal Code; and

(2)  who, if requested by the applicable law enforcement agency or prosecuting attorney to provide assistance in the investigation or prosecution of an offense under Section 20A.02, 20A.03, or 43.05, Penal Code, or a federal offense containing elements that are substantially similar to the elements of an offense under any of those sections:

(A)  provided assistance in the investigation or prosecution of the offense; or

(B)  did not provide assistance in the investigation or prosecution of the offense due to the person's age or a physical or mental disability resulting from being a victim of an offense described by this subdivision.

SECTION 5.  Section 481.115(h), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(h)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (g) is not available if:

(1)  at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made:

(A)  a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made; or

(B)  the actor is committing another offense, other than an offense punishable under Section 481.1151(b)(1), 481.116(b), 481.1161(b)(1) or (2), 481.117(b), 481.118(b), or 481.121(b)(1) [~~or (2)~~], or an offense under Section 481.119(b), 481.125(a), 483.041(a), or 485.031(a);

(2)  the actor has been previously convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense under this chapter or Chapter 483 or 485;

(3)  the actor was acquitted in a previous proceeding in which the actor successfully established the defense under that subsection or Section 481.1151(c), 481.116(f), 481.1161(c), 481.117(f), 481.118(f), 481.119(c), 481.121(c), 481.125(g), 483.041(e), or 485.031(c); or

(4)  at any time during the 18-month period preceding the date of the commission of the instant offense, the actor requested emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of the actor or another person.

SECTION 6.  Section 481.1151(d), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) is not available if:

(1)  at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made:

(A)  a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made; or

(B)  the actor is committing another offense, other than an offense punishable under Section 481.115(b), 481.116(b), 481.1161(b)(1) or (2), 481.117(b), 481.118(b), or 481.121(b)(1) [~~or (2)~~], or an offense under Section 481.119(b), 481.125(a), 483.041(a), or 485.031(a);

(2)  the actor has been previously convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense under this chapter or Chapter 483 or 485;

(3)  the actor was acquitted in a previous proceeding in which the actor successfully established the defense under that subsection or Section 481.115(g), 481.116(f), 481.1161(c), 481.117(f), 481.118(f), 481.119(c), 481.121(c), 481.125(g), 483.041(e), or 485.031(c); or

(4)  at any time during the 18-month period preceding the date of the commission of the instant offense, the actor requested emergency medical assistance in response to the  possible overdose of the actor or another person.

SECTION 7.  Section 481.116(g), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(g)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (f) is not available if:

(1)  at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made:

(A)  a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made; or

(B)  the actor is committing another offense, other than an offense punishable under Section 481.115(b), 481.1151(b)(1), 481.1161(b)(1) or (2), 481.117(b), 481.118(b), or 481.121(b)(1) [~~or (2)~~], or an offense under Section 481.119(b), 481.125(a), 483.041(a), or 485.031(a);

(2)  the actor has been previously convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense under this chapter or Chapter 483 or 485;

(3)  the actor was acquitted in a previous proceeding in which the actor successfully established the defense under that subsection or Section 481.115(g), 481.1151(c), 481.1161(c), 481.117(f), 481.118(f), 481.119(c), 481.121(c), 481.125(g), 483.041(e), or 485.031(c); or

(4)  at any time during the 18-month period preceding the date of the commission of the instant offense, the actor requested emergency medical assistance in response to the  possible overdose of the actor or another person.

SECTION 8.  Section 481.1161(d), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) is not available if:

(1)  at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made:

(A)  a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made; or

(B)  the actor is committing another offense, other than an offense punishable under Section 481.115(b), 481.1151(b)(1), 481.116(b), 481.117(b), 481.118(b), or 481.121(b)(1) [~~or (2)~~], or an offense under Section 481.119(b), 481.125(a), 483.041(a), or 485.031(a);

(2)  the actor has been previously convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense under this chapter or Chapter 483 or 485;

(3)  the actor was acquitted in a previous proceeding in which the actor successfully established the defense under that subsection or Section 481.115(g), 481.1151(c), 481.116(f), 481.117(f), 481.118(f), 481.119(c), 481.121(c), 481.125(g), 483.041(e), or 485.031(c); or

(4)  at any time during the 18-month period preceding the date of the commission of the instant offense, the actor requested emergency medical assistance in response to the  possible overdose of the actor or another person.

SECTION 9.  Section 481.117(g), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(g)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (f) is not available if:

(1)  at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made:

(A)  a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made; or

(B)  the actor is committing another offense, other than an offense punishable under Section 481.115(b), 481.1151(b)(1), 481.116(b), 481.1161(b)(1) or (2), 481.118(b), or 481.121(b)(1) [~~or (2)~~], or an offense under Section 481.119(b), 481.125(a), 483.041(a), or 485.031(a);

(2)  the actor has been previously convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense under this chapter or Chapter 483 or 485;

(3)  the actor was acquitted in a previous proceeding in which the actor successfully established the defense under that subsection or Section 481.115(g), 481.1151(c), 481.116(f), 481.1161(c), 481.118(f), 481.119(c), 481.121(c), 481.125(g), 483.041(e), or 485.031(c); or

(4)  at any time during the 18-month period preceding the date of the commission of the instant offense, the actor requested emergency medical assistance in response to the  possible overdose of the actor or another person.

SECTION 10.  Section 481.118(g), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(g)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (f) is not available if:

(1)  at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made:

(A)  a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made; or

(B)  the actor is committing another offense, other than an offense punishable under Section 481.115(b), 481.1151(b)(1), 481.116(b), 481.1161(b)(1) or (2), 481.117(b), or 481.121(b)(1) [~~or (2)~~], or an offense under Section 481.119(b), 481.125(a), 483.041(a), or 485.031(a);

(2)  the actor has been previously convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense under this chapter or Chapter 483 or 485;

(3)  the actor was acquitted in a previous proceeding in which the actor successfully established the defense under that subsection or Section 481.115(g), 481.1151(c), 481.116(f), 481.1161(c), 481.117(f), 481.119(c), 481.121(c), 481.125(g), 483.041(e), or 485.031(c); or

(4)  at any time during the 18-month period preceding the date of the commission of the instant offense, the actor requested emergency medical assistance in response to the  possible overdose of the actor or another person.

SECTION 11.  Section 481.119(d), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) is not available if:

(1)  at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made:

(A)  a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made; or

(B)  the actor is committing another offense, other than an offense punishable under Section 481.115(b), 481.1151(b)(1), 481.116(b), 481.1161(b)(1) or (2), 481.117(b), 481.118(b), or 481.121(b)(1) [~~or (2)~~], or an offense under Section 481.125(a), 483.041(a), or 485.031(a);

(2)  the actor has been previously convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense under this chapter or Chapter 483 or 485;

(3)  the actor was acquitted in a previous proceeding in which the actor successfully established the defense under that subsection or Section 481.115(g), 481.1151(c), 481.116(f), 481.1161(c), 481.117(f), 481.118(f), 481.121(c), 481.125(g), 483.041(e), or 485.031(c); or

(4)  at any time during the 18-month period preceding the date of the commission of the instant offense, the actor requested emergency medical assistance in response to the  possible overdose of the actor or another person.

SECTION 12.  Section 481.125(h), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(h)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (g) is not available if:

(1)  at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made:

(A)  a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made; or

(B)  the actor is committing another offense, other than an offense punishable under Section 481.115(b), 481.1151(b)(1), 481.116(b), 481.1161(b)(1) or (2), 481.117(b), 481.118(b), or 481.121(b)(1) [~~or (2)~~], or an offense under Section 481.119(b), 483.041(a), or 485.031(a);

(2)  the actor has been previously convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense under this chapter or Chapter 483 or 485;

(3)  the actor was acquitted in a previous proceeding in which the actor successfully established the defense under that subsection or Section 481.115(g), 481.1151(c), 481.116(f), 481.1161(c), 481.117(f), 481.118(f), 481.119(c), 481.121(c), 483.041(e), or 485.031(c); or

(4)  at any time during the 18-month period preceding the date of the commission of the instant offense, the actor requested emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of the actor or another person.

SECTION 13.  Section 481.126(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  A person commits an offense if the person:

(1)  barters property or expends funds the person knows are derived from the commission of an offense under this chapter punishable by imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for life;

(2)  barters property or expends funds the person knows are derived from the commission of an offense under Section 481.121(a) that is punishable under Subsection (b)(4) of that section [~~Section 481.121(b)(5)~~];

(3)  barters property or finances or invests funds the person knows or believes are intended to further the commission of an offense for which the punishment is described by Subdivision (1); or

(4)  barters property or finances or invests funds the person knows or believes are intended to further the commission of an offense under Section 481.121(a) that is punishable under Subsection (b)(4) of that section [~~Section 481.121(b)(5)~~].

SECTION 14.  Section 481.134(c), Health and Safety Code, as amended by Chapters 584 (S.B. 768) and 807 (H.B. 1540), Acts of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(c)  The minimum term of confinement or imprisonment for an offense otherwise punishable under Section 481.112(c), (d), (e), or (f), 481.1121(b)(2), (3), or (4), 481.1123(c), (d), (e), or (f), 481.113(c), (d), or (e), 481.114(c), (d), or (e), 481.115(c)-(f), 481.1151(b)(2), (3), (4), or (5), 481.116(c), (d), or (e), 481.1161(b)(4), (5), or (6), 481.117(c), (d), or (e), 481.118(c), (d), or (e), 481.120(b)(4), (5), or (6), or 481.121(b)(3), (4), or (5) [~~481.121(b)(4), (5), or (6)~~] is increased by five years and the maximum fine for the offense is doubled if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the offense was committed:

(1)  in, on, or within 1,000 feet of the premises of a school, the premises of a public or private youth center, or a playground;

(2)  on a school bus; or

(3)  by any unauthorized person 18 years of age or older, in, on, or within 1,000 feet of premises owned, rented, or leased by a general residential operation operating as a residential treatment center.

SECTION 15.  Sections 481.134(d), (e), and (f), Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

(d)  An offense otherwise punishable under Section 481.112(b), 481.1121(b)(1), 481.113(b), 481.114(b), 481.115(b), 481.1151(b)(1), 481.116(b), 481.1161(b)(3), 481.120(b)(3), or 481.121(b)(2) [~~481.121(b)(3)~~] is a felony of the third degree if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the offense was committed:

(1)  in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any real property that is owned, rented, or leased to a school or school board, the premises of a public or private youth center, or a playground;

(2)  on a school bus; or

(3)  by any unauthorized person 18 years of age or older, in, on, or within 1,000 feet of premises owned, rented, or leased by a general residential operation operating as a residential treatment center.

(e)  An offense otherwise punishable under Section 481.117(b), 481.119(a), or 481.120(b)(2)[~~, or 481.121(b)(2)~~] is a state jail felony if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the offense was committed:

(1)  in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any real property that is owned, rented, or leased to a school or school board, the premises of a public or private youth center, or a playground;

(2)  on a school bus; or

(3)  by any unauthorized person 18 years of age or older, in, on, or within 1,000 feet of premises owned, rented, or leased by a general residential operation operating as a residential treatment center.

(f)  An offense otherwise punishable under Section 481.118(b), 481.119(b), or 481.120(b)(1)[~~, or 481.121(b)(1)~~] is a Class A misdemeanor if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the offense was committed:

(1)  in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any real property that is owned, rented, or leased to a school or school board, the premises of a public or private youth center, or a playground;

(2)  on a school bus; or

(3)  by any unauthorized person 18 years of age or older, in, on, or within 1,000 feet of premises owned, rented, or leased by a general residential operation operating as a residential treatment center.

SECTION 16.  Section 483.041(f), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(f)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (e) is not available if:

(1)  at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made:

(A)  a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made; or

(B)  the actor is committing another offense, other than an offense punishable under Section 481.115(b), 481.1151(b)(1), 481.116(b), 481.1161(b)(1) or (2), 481.117(b), 481.118(b), or 481.121(b)(1) [~~or (2)~~], or an offense under Section 481.119(b), 481.125(a), or 485.031(a);

(2)  the actor has been previously convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense under this chapter or Chapter 481 or 485;

(3)  the actor was acquitted in a previous proceeding in which the actor successfully established the defense under that subsection or Section 481.115(g), 481.1151(c), 481.116(f), 481.1161(c), 481.117(f), 481.118(f), 481.119(c), 481.121(c), 481.125(g), or 485.031(c); or

(4)  at any time during the 18-month period preceding the date of the commission of the instant offense, the actor requested emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of the actor or another person.

SECTION 17.  Section 485.031(d), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d)  The defense to prosecution provided by Subsection (c) is not available if:

(1)  at the time the request for emergency medical assistance was made:

(A)  a peace officer was in the process of arresting the actor or executing a search warrant describing the actor or the place from which the request for medical assistance was made; or

(B)  the actor is committing another offense, other than an offense punishable under Section 481.115(b), 481.1151(b)(1), 481.116(b), 481.1161(b)(1) or (2), 481.117(b), 481.118(b), or 481.121(b)(1) [~~or (2)~~], or an offense under Section 481.119(b), 481.125(a), or 483.041(a);

(2)  the actor has been previously convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense under this chapter or Chapter 481 or 483;

(3)  the actor was acquitted in a previous proceeding in which the actor successfully established the defense under that subsection or Section 481.115(g), 481.1151(c), 481.116(f), 481.1161(c), 481.117(f), 481.118(f), 481.119(c), 481.121(c), 481.125(g), or 483.041(e); or

(4)  at any time during the 18-month period preceding the date of the commission of the instant offense, the actor requested emergency medical assistance in response to the possible overdose of the actor or another person.

SECTION 18.  (a) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (b) of this section, the changes in law made by this Act apply 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 subsection, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense was committed before that date.

(b)  Sections 481.121 and 481.134, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act, apply to an offense committed under Section 481.121 or an offense committed under Section 481.121 and punishable under Section 481.134 before, on, or after September 1, 2023, except that a final conviction for an offense that exists on September 1, 2023, is unaffected by this Act.

SECTION 19.  To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

SECTION 20.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.