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H.B. No. 77

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to status offenses committed by a child, including the  
3 repeal of the status offense of a child voluntarily running away  
4 from home.

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

6 SECTION 1. Article [45.0216](#)(f), Code of Criminal Procedure,  
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 (f) The court shall order the conviction, together with all  
9 complaints, verdicts, sentences, and prosecutorial and law  
10 enforcement records, and any other documents relating to the  
11 offense, expunged from the person's record if the court finds that:

12 (1) for a person applying for the expunction of a  
13 conviction for an offense described by Section [8.07](#)(a)(4) or (5),  
14 Penal Code, the person was not convicted of any other offense  
15 described by Section [8.07](#)(a)(4) or (5), Penal Code, while the  
16 person was a child; and

17 (2) for a person applying for the expunction of a  
18 conviction for an offense described by Section [43.261](#), Penal Code,  
19 the person was not found to have engaged in conduct indicating a  
20 need for supervision described by Section [51.03](#)(b)(5)  
21 [~~[51.03](#)(b)(6)~~], Family Code, while the person was a child.

22 SECTION 2. Section [33.051](#)(2), Education Code, is amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 (2) "Missing child" means a child whose whereabouts

1 are unknown to the legal custodian of the child and:

2 (A) the circumstances of whose absence indicate  
3 that the child did not voluntarily leave the care and control of the  
4 custodian and that the taking of the child was not authorized by  
5 law; or

6 (B) the child has voluntarily left the child's  
7 home without the consent of the custodian for a substantial length  
8 of time or without intent to return [~~engaged in conduct indicating a~~  
9 ~~need for supervision under Section 51.03(b)(2), Family Code~~].

10 SECTION 3. Section 51.02, Family Code, is amended by  
11 amending Subdivision (15) and adding Subdivision (15-a) to read as  
12 follows:

13 (15) "Status offender" means a child who is accused,  
14 adjudicated, or convicted of a status offense.

15 (15-a) "Status offense" means [~~for~~] conduct a child  
16 commits that would not, under state law, be a crime if committed by  
17 an adult, including:

18 (A) [~~running away from home under Section~~  
19 ~~51.03(b)(2)~~],

20 [~~(B)~~] a fineable only offense under Section  
21 51.03(b)(1) transferred to the juvenile court under Section  
22 51.08(b), but only if the conduct constituting the offense would  
23 not have been criminal if engaged in by an adult;

24 (B) [~~(C)~~] a violation of standards of student  
25 conduct as described by Section 51.03(b)(3) [~~51.03(b)(4)~~];

26 (C) [~~(D)~~] a violation of a juvenile curfew  
27 ordinance or order;

1            (D) [~~(E)~~] a violation of a provision of the  
2 Alcoholic Beverage Code applicable to minors only; or

3            (E) [~~(F)~~] a violation of any other fineable only  
4 offense under Section 8.07(a)(4) or (5), Penal Code, but only if the  
5 conduct constituting the offense would not have been criminal if  
6 engaged in by an adult.

7            SECTION 4. Section 51.03(b), Family Code, is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9            (b) Conduct indicating a need for supervision is:

10            (1) subject to Subsection (f), conduct, other than a  
11 traffic offense, that violates:

12            (A) the penal laws of this state of the grade of  
13 misdemeanor that are punishable by fine only; or

14            (B) the penal ordinances of any political  
15 subdivision of this state;

16            (2) ~~[the voluntary absence of a child from the child's  
17 home without the consent of the child's parent or guardian for a  
18 substantial length of time or without intent to return,~~

19            [~~(3)~~] conduct prohibited by city ordinance or by state  
20 law involving the inhalation of the fumes or vapors of paint and  
21 other protective coatings or glue and other adhesives and the  
22 volatile chemicals itemized in Section 485.001, Health and Safety  
23 Code;

24            (3) [~~(4)~~] an act that violates a school district's  
25 previously communicated written standards of student conduct for  
26 which the child has been expelled under Section 37.007(c),  
27 Education Code;

1           (4) [~~(5)~~] notwithstanding Subsection (a)(1), conduct  
2 described by Section 43.02 or 43.021, Penal Code;

3           (5) [~~(6)~~] notwithstanding Subsection (a)(1), conduct  
4 that violates Section 43.261, Penal Code; or

5           (6) [~~(7)~~] notwithstanding Subsection (a)(1), conduct  
6 that violates Section 42.0601, Penal Code, if the child has not  
7 previously been adjudicated as having engaged in conduct violating  
8 that section.

9           SECTION 5. Section 51.12, Family Code, is amended by adding  
10 Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

11           (a-1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,  
12 a child may only be detained in an office or place described by  
13 Subsection (a)(1) or (2) or a nonsecure correctional facility that  
14 meets the conditions of Subsections (j-1)(1), (3), and (4) if the  
15 child is accused only of a status offense.

16           SECTION 6. Section 51.13(e), Family Code, is amended to  
17 read as follows:

18           (e) A finding that a child engaged in conduct indicating a  
19 need for supervision as described by Section 51.03(b)(5)  
20 [~~51.03(b)(6)~~] is a conviction only for the purposes of Sections  
21 43.261(c) and (d), Penal Code.

22           SECTION 7. Section 52.02(a), Family Code, is amended to  
23 read as follows:

24           (a) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a person taking a  
25 child into custody, without unnecessary delay and without first  
26 taking the child to any place other than a juvenile processing  
27 office designated under Section 52.025, shall do one of the

1 following:

2 (1) release the child to a parent, guardian, custodian  
3 of the child, or other responsible adult upon that person's promise  
4 to bring the child before the juvenile court as requested by the  
5 court;

6 (2) bring the child before the office or official  
7 designated by the juvenile board if there is probable cause to  
8 believe that the child engaged in delinquent conduct, conduct  
9 indicating a need for supervision, or conduct that violates a  
10 condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court;

11 (3) bring the child to a detention facility designated  
12 by the juvenile board;

13 (4) bring the child to a secure detention facility as  
14 provided by Section 51.12(j), unless the child is accused only of a  
15 status offense;

16 (5) bring the child to a medical facility if the child  
17 is believed to suffer from a serious physical condition or illness  
18 that requires prompt treatment;

19 (6) dispose of the case under Section 52.03; [~~or~~]

20 (7) if school is in session and the child is a student,  
21 bring the child to the school campus to which the child is assigned  
22 if the principal, the principal's designee, or a peace officer  
23 assigned to the campus agrees to assume responsibility for the  
24 child for the remainder of the school day; or

25 (8) if the child is accused only of a status offense:

26 (A) bring the child to a place of nonsecure  
27 custody in compliance with Articles 45.058(c), (d), and (e), Code

1 of Criminal Procedure; or

2 (B) if a juvenile processing office or place of  
3 nonsecure custody is not available, bring the child to a nonsecure  
4 correctional facility that meets the conditions of Sections  
5 51.12(j-1)(1), (3), and (4).

6 SECTION 8. Section 54.011, Family Code, is amended by  
7 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as  
8 follows:

9 (a) The detention hearing for a [~~status offender or~~]  
10 nonoffender who has not been released administratively under  
11 Section 53.02 shall be held before the 24th hour after the time the  
12 child arrived at a detention facility, excluding hours of a weekend  
13 or a holiday. Except as otherwise provided by this section, the  
14 judge or referee conducting the detention hearing shall release the  
15 [~~status offender or~~] nonoffender from secure detention.

16 (a-1) If a child is accused only of a status offense, the  
17 child may not be detained at a place of nonsecure custody for longer  
18 than six hours, or at a nonsecure correctional facility for longer  
19 than 24 hours, after the time the child arrived at the place of  
20 detention. If the child is not released before the sixth hour after  
21 the time the child arrived at the place of detention, the child is  
22 entitled to a detention hearing that must be held before the 24th  
23 hour after the time the child arrived at the place of detention,  
24 excluding weekends and holidays. Except as otherwise provided by  
25 this section, the judge or referee conducting the detention hearing  
26 shall release the child from detention.

27 SECTION 9. Section 54.04(o), Family Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (o) In a disposition under this title:

3 (1) a status offender may not, under any  
4 circumstances, be committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice  
5 Department for engaging in conduct that would not, under state or  
6 local law, be a crime if committed by an adult;

7 (2) a status offender may not, under any circumstances  
8 [~~other than as provided under Subsection (n)~~], be placed in a  
9 post-adjudication secure correctional facility; and

10 (3) a child adjudicated for contempt of a county,  
11 justice, or municipal court order may not, under any circumstances,  
12 be placed in a post-adjudication secure correctional facility or  
13 committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department for that  
14 conduct.

15 SECTION 10. Section [54.0404](#)(a), Family Code, is amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (a) If a child is found to have engaged in conduct  
18 indicating a need for supervision described by Section [51.03](#)(b)(5)  
19 [~~[51.03](#)(b)(6)~~], the juvenile court may enter an order requiring the  
20 child to attend and successfully complete an educational program  
21 described by Section [37.218](#), Education Code, or another equivalent  
22 educational program.

23 SECTION 11. Section [59.003](#)(a), Family Code, is amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (a) Subject to Subsection (e), after a child's first  
26 commission of delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for  
27 supervision, the probation department or prosecuting attorney may,

1 or the juvenile court may, in a disposition hearing under Section  
2 54.04 or a modification hearing under Section 54.05, assign a child  
3 one of the following sanction levels according to the child's  
4 conduct:

5 (1) for conduct indicating a need for supervision,  
6 other than conduct described in Section 51.03(b)(2) or (3)  
7 [~~51.03(b)(3) or (4)~~] or a Class A or B misdemeanor, the sanction  
8 level is one;

9 (2) for conduct indicating a need for supervision  
10 under Section 51.03(b)(2) or (3) [~~51.03(b)(3) or (4)~~] or a Class A  
11 or B misdemeanor, other than a misdemeanor involving the use or  
12 possession of a firearm, or for delinquent conduct under Section  
13 51.03(a)(2), the sanction level is two;

14 (3) for a misdemeanor involving the use or possession  
15 of a firearm or for a state jail felony or a felony of the third  
16 degree, the sanction level is three;

17 (4) for a felony of the second degree, the sanction  
18 level is four;

19 (5) for a felony of the first degree, other than a  
20 felony involving the use of a deadly weapon or causing serious  
21 bodily injury, the sanction level is five;

22 (6) for a felony of the first degree involving the use  
23 of a deadly weapon or causing serious bodily injury, for an  
24 aggravated controlled substance felony, or for a capital felony,  
25 the sanction level is six; or

26 (7) for a felony of the first degree involving the use  
27 of a deadly weapon or causing serious bodily injury, for an



1 aggravated controlled substance felony, or for a capital felony, if  
2 the petition has been approved by a grand jury under Section 53.045,  
3 or if a petition to transfer the child to criminal court has been  
4 filed under Section 54.02, the sanction level is seven.

5 SECTION 12. The following provisions of the Family Code are  
6 repealed:

- 7 (1) Sections 51.03(e) and 54.04(n); and
- 8 (2) Section 58.0022.

9 SECTION 13. The changes in law made by this Act apply only  
10 to conduct that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act.  
11 Conduct that occurs before the effective date of this Act is  
12 governed by the law in effect on the date the conduct occurred, and  
13 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For the  
14 purposes of this section, conduct occurred before the effective  
15 date of this Act if any element of the conduct occurred before that  
16 date.

17 SECTION 14. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.