

By: Anchía

H.B. No. 1624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the statute of limitations for possession or promotion of child pornography.

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

SECTION 1. Article 12.01, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 12.01. FELONIES. Except as provided in Article 12.03, felony indictments may be presented within these limits, and not afterward:

(1) no limitation:

(A) murder and manslaughter;

(B) sexual assault under Section 22.011(a)(2), Penal Code, or aggravated sexual assault under Section 22.021(a)(1)(B), Penal Code;

(C) sexual assault, if:

(i) during the investigation of the offense biological matter is collected and the matter:

(a) has not yet been subjected to forensic DNA testing; or

(b) has been subjected to forensic DNA testing and the testing results show that the matter does not match the victim or any other person whose identity is readily ascertained; or

(ii) probable cause exists to believe that

1 the defendant has committed the same or a similar sex offense  
2 against five or more victims;

3 (D) continuous sexual abuse of young child or  
4 disabled individual under Section 21.02, Penal Code;

5 (E) indecency with a child under Section 21.11,  
6 Penal Code;

7 (F) an offense involving leaving the scene of an  
8 accident under Section 550.021, Transportation Code, if the  
9 accident resulted in the death of a person;

10 (G) trafficking of persons under Section  
11 20A.02(a)(7) or (8), Penal Code;

12 (H) continuous trafficking of persons under  
13 Section 20A.03, Penal Code; or

14 (I) compelling prostitution under Section  
15 43.05(a)(2), Penal Code;

16 (2) ten years from the date of the commission of the  
17 offense:

18 (A) theft of any estate, real, personal or mixed,  
19 by an executor, administrator, guardian or trustee, with intent to  
20 defraud any creditor, heir, legatee, ward, distributee,  
21 beneficiary or settlor of a trust interested in such estate;

22 (B) theft by a public servant of government  
23 property over which the public servant exercises control in the  
24 public servant's official capacity;

25 (C) forgery or the uttering, using, or passing of  
26 forged instruments;

27 (D) injury to an elderly or disabled individual

1 punishable as a felony of the first degree under Section 22.04,  
2 Penal Code;

3 (E) sexual assault, except as provided by  
4 Subdivision (1) or (7);

5 (F) arson;

6 (G) trafficking of persons under Section  
7 20A.02(a)(1), (2), (3), or (4), Penal Code; or

8 (H) compelling prostitution under Section  
9 43.05(a)(1), Penal Code;

10 (3) seven years from the date of the commission of the  
11 offense:

12 (A) misapplication of fiduciary property or  
13 property of a financial institution;

14 (B) fraudulent securing of document execution;

15 (C) a felony violation under Chapter 162, Tax  
16 Code;

17 (D) false statement to obtain property or credit  
18 under Section 32.32, Penal Code;

19 (E) money laundering;

20 (F) credit card or debit card abuse under Section  
21 32.31, Penal Code;

22 (G) fraudulent use or possession of identifying  
23 information under Section 32.51, Penal Code;

24 (H) exploitation of a child, elderly individual,  
25 or disabled individual under Section 32.53, Penal Code;

26 (I) health care fraud under Section 35A.02, Penal  
27 Code; [~~or~~]

(J) bigamy under Section 25.01, Penal Code,  
except as provided by Subdivision (6); or

(K) possession or promotion of child pornography  
under Section 43.26, Penal Code;

(4) five years from the date of the commission of the  
offense:

(A) theft or robbery;

(B) except as provided by Subdivision (5),  
kidnapping or burglary;

(C) injury to an elderly or disabled individual  
that is not punishable as a felony of the first degree under Section  
22.04, Penal Code;

(D) abandoning or endangering a child; or

(E) insurance fraud;

(5) if the investigation of the offense shows that the  
victim is younger than 17 years of age at the time the offense is  
committed, 20 years from the 18th birthday of the victim of one of  
the following offenses:

(A) sexual performance by a child under Section  
43.25, Penal Code;

(B) aggravated kidnapping under Section  
20.04(a)(4), Penal Code, if the defendant committed the offense  
with the intent to violate or abuse the victim sexually; or

(C) burglary under Section 30.02, Penal Code, if  
the offense is punishable under Subsection (d) of that section and  
the defendant committed the offense with the intent to commit an  
offense described by Subdivision (1)(B) or (D) of this article or

Paragraph (B) of this subdivision;

(6) ten years from the 18th birthday of the victim of the offense:

(A) trafficking of persons under Section 20A.02(a)(5) or (6), Penal Code;

(B) injury to a child under Section 22.04, Penal Code; or

(C) bigamy under Section 25.01, Penal Code, if the investigation of the offense shows that the person, other than the legal spouse of the defendant, whom the defendant marries or purports to marry or with whom the defendant lives under the appearance of being married is younger than 18 years of age at the time the offense is committed;

(7) two years from the date the offense was discovered: sexual assault punishable as a state jail felony under Section 22.011(f)(2), Penal Code; or

(8) three years from the date of the commission of the offense: all other felonies.

SECTION 2. Article 12.01, Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended by this Act, does not apply to an offense if the prosecution of that offense becomes barred by limitation before the effective date of this Act. The prosecution of that offense remains barred as if this Act had not taken effect.

SECTION 3. 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.

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