

By: Ramos

H.B. No. 2537

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of sexual assault.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22.011(b), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A sexual assault under Subsection (a)(1) is without the consent of the other person if:

(1) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by the use of physical force, violence, or coercion;

(2) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by threatening to use force or violence against the other person or to cause harm to the other person, and the other person believes that the actor has the present ability to execute the threat;

(3) the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unconscious or physically unable to resist;

(4) the actor knows that as a result of mental disease or defect the other person is at the time of the sexual assault incapable either of appraising the nature of the act or of resisting it;

(5) the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unaware that the sexual assault is

1 occurring;

2 (6) the actor has intentionally impaired the other
3 person's power to appraise or control the other person's conduct by
4 administering any substance without the other person's knowledge;

5 (7) the actor compels the other person to submit or
6 participate by threatening to use force or violence against any
7 person, and the other person believes that the actor has the ability
8 to execute the threat;

9 (8) the actor is a public servant who coerces the other
10 person to submit or participate;

11 (9) the actor is a mental health services provider or a
12 health care services provider who causes the other person, who is a
13 patient or former patient of the actor, to submit or participate by
14 exploiting the other person's emotional dependency on the actor;

15 (10) the actor is a clergyman who causes the other
16 person to submit or participate by exploiting the other person's
17 emotional dependency on the clergyman in the clergyman's
18 professional character as spiritual adviser;

19 (11) the actor is an employee of a facility where the
20 other person is a resident, unless the employee and resident are
21 formally or informally married to each other under Chapter 2,
22 Family Code;

23 (12) the actor is a health care services provider who,
24 in the course of performing an assisted reproduction procedure on
25 the other person, uses human reproductive material from a donor
26 knowing that the other person has not expressly consented to the use
27 of material from that donor;

1 (13) the actor is a coach or tutor who causes the other
2 person to submit or participate by using the actor's power or
3 influence to exploit the other person's dependency on the actor;
4 ~~[or]~~

5 (14) the actor is a caregiver hired to assist the other
6 person with activities of daily life and causes the other person to
7 submit or participate by exploiting the other person's dependency
8 on the actor; or

9 (15) the actor is a law enforcement officer and the
10 other person is arrested or detained or otherwise in the custody of
11 law enforcement.

12 SECTION 2. Section 22.011(c), Penal Code, is amended by
13 adding Subdivision (8) to read as follows:

14 (8) "Law enforcement officer" means a peace officer,
15 reserve law enforcement officer, county jailer, school marshal, or
16 public security officer, as each of those terms is defined by
17 Section 1701.001, Occupations Code, who is licensed under Chapter
18 1701 of that code.

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

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