

By: Thierry, Shaheen, Jetton, Cook

H.B. No. 3553

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to increasing the criminal penalty for the offense of  
3 trafficking of persons if committed at certain locations.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 20A.02(b-1), Penal Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (b-1) An offense under this section is a felony of the first  
8 degree punishable by imprisonment in the Texas Department of  
9 Criminal Justice for life or for a term of not more than 99 years or  
10 less than 25 years if it is shown on the trial of the offense that  
11 the actor committed the offense in a location that was:

12 (1) on the premises of or within 1,000 feet of the  
13 premises of:

14 (A) a school; or

15 (B) an institution of higher education or private  
16 or independent institution of higher education, as defined by  
17 Section 61.003, Education Code; or

18 (2) on premises or within 1,000 feet of premises  
19 where:

20 (A) an official school function was taking place;

21 or

22 (B) an event sponsored or sanctioned by the  
23 University Interscholastic League was taking place.

24 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only

1 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
2 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
3 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
4 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
5 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
6 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred  
7 before that date.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.