

By: Thierry, Shaheen, Jetton, Cook

H.B. No. 3554

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. Sections 20A.02(b) and (b-1), Penal Code, are  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection and  
8 Subsection (b-1), an offense under this section is a felony of the  
9 second degree. An offense under this section is a felony of the  
10 first degree if:

11 (1) the applicable conduct constitutes an offense  
12 under Subsection (a)(5), (6), (7), or (8), regardless of whether  
13 the actor knows the age of the child at the time of the offense;

14 (2) the commission of the offense results in the death  
15 of the person who is trafficked; or

16 (3) the commission of the offense results in the death  
17 of an unborn child of the person who is trafficked[~~, or~~

18 [~~(4) the actor recruited, enticed, or obtained the~~  
19 ~~victim of the offense from a shelter or facility operating as a~~  
20 ~~residential treatment center that serves runaway youth, foster~~  
21 ~~children, the homeless, or persons subjected to human trafficking,~~  
22 ~~domestic violence, or sexual assault].~~

23 (b-1) An offense under this section is a felony of the first  
24 degree punishable by imprisonment in the Texas Department of

1 Criminal Justice for life or for a term of not more than 99 years or  
2 less than 25 years if it is shown on the trial of the offense that  
3 the actor committed the offense in a location that was:

4 (1) on the premises of or within 1,000 feet of the  
5 premises of:

6 (A) a school;

7 (B) a shelter or facility operating as a  
8 residential treatment center that serves runaway youth, foster  
9 children, people who are homeless, or persons subjected to human  
10 trafficking, domestic violence, or sexual assault;

11 (C) a community center offering youth services  
12 and programs; or

13 (D) a child-care facility, as defined by Section  
14 42.002, Human Resources Code; or

15 (2) on premises or within 1,000 feet of premises  
16 where:

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

18 or

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

21 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
22 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
23 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
24 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
25 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
26 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
27 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred

1 before that date.

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