

By: Hickland

H.B. No. 1509

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the offense of failure to stop or report aggravated sexual assault of a child; increasing a criminal penalty.

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

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as Shannah's Law.

SECTION 2. Section 38.17, Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 38.17. FAILURE TO STOP OR REPORT AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT OF CHILD. (a) A person [~~, other than a person who has a relationship with a child described by Section 22.04(b),~~] commits an offense if:

(1) the actor observes the commission or attempted commission of an offense prohibited by Section 21.02 or 22.021(a)(2)(B) under circumstances in which a reasonable person would believe that an offense of a sexual or assaultive nature was being committed or was about to be committed against the child;

(2) the actor fails to assist the child or immediately report the commission of the offense to a peace officer or law enforcement agency; and

(3) the actor could assist the child or immediately report the commission of the offense without placing the actor in danger of suffering serious bodily injury or death.

(b) An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree [~~Class A misdemeanor~~].

1        (c) If conduct that constitutes an offense under this  
2 section also constitutes an offense under any other law, the actor  
3 may be prosecuted under this section, the other law, or both.

4        SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
5 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
6 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
7 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
8 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
9 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
10 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred  
11 before that date.

12        SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.