

By: Rosenthal

H.B. No. 1602

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the prosecution and punishment of a criminal offense
3 relating to making false statements or reports of child abuse or
4 neglect.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 261.107(a), Family Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (a) A person commits an offense if, with the intent to
9 deceive, the person knowingly makes a report as provided in this
10 chapter that is false. An offense under this subsection is:

11 (1) a state jail felony; or

12 (2) [unless it is shown on the trial of the offense
13 that the person has previously been convicted under this section,
14 in which case the offense is] a felony of the third degree if it is
15 shown on the trial of the offense that the person:

16 (A) has previously been convicted under this
17 section; or

18 (B) committed the offense because of bias or
19 prejudice as described by Article 42.014, Code of Criminal
20 Procedure.

21 SECTION 2. Section 261.107(a), Family Code, as amended by
22 this Act, applies only to an offense committed on or after the
23 effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the
24 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the

1 date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in
2 effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense
3 was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element
4 of the offense occurred before that date.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.