

By: Hopper

H.B. No. 2331

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the prosecution of the offense of smuggling of persons.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 20.05(a), Penal Code, is amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly:

7 (1) uses a motor vehicle, aircraft, watercraft, or
8 other means of conveyance to transport an individual with the
9 intent to:

10 (A) conceal the individual from a peace officer
11 or special investigator; or

12 (B) flee from a person the actor knows is a peace
13 officer or special investigator attempting to lawfully arrest or
14 detain the actor;

15 (2) encourages or induces a person to enter or remain
16 in this country in violation of state or federal law [~~by concealing,
17 harboring, or shielding that person from detection~~]; or

18 (3) assists, guides, or directs two or more
19 individuals to enter or remain on agricultural land without the
20 effective consent of the owner.

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,

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

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