

By: McLaughlin

H.B. No. 4416

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to disorderly or threatening behavior and measures by public schools and institutions of higher education to prevent that behavior; increasing criminal penalties; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.932 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.932. GENERAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN REGARDING CONSEQUENCES OF ENGAGING IN DISORDERLY OR THREATENING BEHAVIOR.

(a) In this section, "doxing" means to intentionally post on a publicly accessible website the private, sensitive, or identifying information of a person:

(1) without the person's consent; and

(2) with the intent to incite violence against or otherwise harass or intimidate the person.

(b) A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall develop and implement an annual comprehensive prevention and outreach program for students on the consequences of engaging in disorderly or threatening behavior, including the consequences of doxing a person or engaging in conduct that otherwise constitutes a criminal offense under Section 22.07, 42.06, 42.0601, 42.074, or 46.08, Penal Code. The program must include:

(1) a general awareness campaign; and

1 (2) the provision of information to students and
2 parents or guardians of students regarding:

3 (A) responsible online behavior; and

4 (B) procedures for reporting suspicious activity
5 involving disorderly or threatening behavior.

6 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 37, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 37.091 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 37.091. PARENTAL NOTIFICATION REGARDING STUDENT
9 CONDUCT INVOLVING DISORDERLY OR THREATENING BEHAVIOR. A school
10 district or open-enrollment charter school shall immediately
11 notify a student's parent or guardian if the student is alleged to
12 have engaged in conduct that contains the elements of an offense
13 under Section 22.07, 42.06, 42.0601, 42.074, or 46.08, Penal Code.

14 SECTION 3. Subchapter 2, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
15 amended by adding Section 51.992 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 51.992. GENERAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN REGARDING
17 CONSEQUENCES OF ENGAGING IN DISORDERLY OR THREATENING BEHAVIOR.

18 (a) In this section:

19 (1) "Doxing" means to intentionally post on a publicly
20 accessible website the private, sensitive, or identifying
21 information of a person:

22 (A) without the person's consent; and

23 (B) with the intent to incite violence against or
24 otherwise harass or intimidate the person.

25 (2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning
26 assigned by Section 61.003.

27 (b) Each institution of higher education shall develop and

implement an annual comprehensive prevention and outreach program for students on the consequences of engaging in disorderly or threatening behavior, including the consequences of doxing a person or engaging in conduct that otherwise constitutes a criminal offense under Section 22.07, 42.06, 42.0601, 42.074, or 46.08, Penal Code. The program must include:

(1) a general awareness campaign; and
(2) the provision of information to students regarding:

(A) responsible online behavior; and
(B) procedures for reporting suspicious activity involving disorderly or threatening behavior.

SECTION 4. Section 22.07(c-1), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (c) [~~(c)(2)~~], an offense under Subsection (a)(2) is a state jail felony if the offense is committed against a person the actor knows is:

(1) a peace officer or judge; or
(2) an employee or student of a public or private primary or secondary school or postsecondary educational institution.

SECTION 5. Section 42.074(b), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor, except that the offense is:

(1) a Class A misdemeanor if the offense results in the bodily injury of:

1 (A) [~~(1)~~] the individual whose residence address
2 or telephone number was posted on a publicly accessible website; or

3 (B) [~~(2)~~] a member of the individual's family or
4 household; or

5 (2) a state jail felony if the individual whose
6 residence address or telephone number was posted on a publicly
7 accessible website is an employee or student of a public or private
8 primary or secondary school or postsecondary educational
9 institution.

10 SECTION 6. Chapter 42, Penal Code, is amended by adding
11 Section 42.0745 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 42.0745. PARENTAL FAILURE TO STOP UNLAWFUL DISCLOSURE
13 OF RESIDENCE ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER. (a) In this section,
14 "child" means a person younger than 18 years of age.

15 (b) A parent or legal guardian of a child commits an offense
16 if the actor:

17 (1) observes or otherwise has knowledge of the child
18 engaging in conduct constituting an offense under Section 42.074;
19 and

20 (2) fails to take reasonable steps to stop the child
21 from engaging in the conduct.

22 (c) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor,
23 except that the offense is a Class A misdemeanor if the offense
24 results in the bodily injury of:

25 (1) the individual whose residence address or
26 telephone number was posted on a publicly accessible website; or

27 (2) a member of the individual's family or household.

SECTION 7. Section 46.08(b), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor, except that the offense is a state jail felony if the actor intends to use the hoax bomb on the premises, grounds, or campus of a public or private primary or secondary school or postsecondary educational institution.

SECTION 8. Section 29.932, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

SECTION 9. Section 51.992, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

SECTION 10. Sections 22.07, 42.074, and 46.08, Penal Code, as amended by this Act, apply only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

SECTION 11. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.