

AN ACT

relating to the punishment for the offense of trafficking of persons.

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

SECTION 1. Section 20A.02(b), Penal Code, as amended by Chapters 93 (S.B. 1527) and 452 (H.B. 3554), Acts of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

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

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

(2) the commission of the offense results in serious bodily injury to or the death of the person who is trafficked; ~~or~~

(3) the commission of the offense results in the death of an unborn child of the person who is trafficked; or

(4) the actor:

(A) used or exhibited a deadly weapon during the commission of the offense;

(B) intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly

1 impeded the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of the
2 trafficked person by applying pressure to the person's throat or
3 neck or by blocking the person's nose or mouth; ~~[or]~~

4 (C) subject to Subsection (b-1), recruited,
5 enticed, or obtained the trafficked person from a shelter or
6 facility operating as a residential treatment center that serves
7 runaway youth, foster children, the homeless, or persons subjected
8 to human trafficking, domestic violence, or sexual assault; or

9 (D) subject to Subsection (b-1), recruited,
10 enticed, or obtained the trafficked person from a correctional
11 facility while the trafficked person was confined in the facility.

12 SECTION 2. Section 20A.02(b-1), Penal Code, as amended by
13 Chapters 451 (H.B. 3553) and 452 (H.B. 3554), Acts of the 88th
14 Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, is reenacted and amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (b-1) An offense under this section is a felony of the first
17 degree punishable by imprisonment in the Texas Department of
18 Criminal Justice for life or for a term of not more than 99 years or
19 less than 25 years if it is shown on the trial of the offense that
20 the actor committed the offense in a location that was:

21 (1) on the premises of or within 1,000 feet of the
22 premises of:

23 (A) a school; ~~[or]~~

24 (B) an institution of higher education or private
25 or independent institution of higher education, as defined by
26 Section 61.003, Education Code; ~~[or]~~

27 (C) ~~(B)~~ a juvenile detention facility;

1 (D) [~~(C)~~] a post-adjudication secure
2 correctional facility;

3 (E) [~~(D)~~] a shelter or facility operating as a
4 residential treatment center that serves runaway youth, foster
5 children, people who are homeless, or persons subjected to human
6 trafficking, domestic violence, or sexual assault;

7 (F) [~~(E)~~] a community center offering youth
8 services and programs; ~~or~~

9 (G) [~~(F)~~] a child-care facility, as defined by
10 Section 42.002, Human Resources Code; or

11 (H) a correctional facility; or

12 (2) on the premises where or within 1,000 feet of the
13 premises where:

14 (A) an official school function was taking place;
15 or

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

18 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
19 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
20 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
21 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
22 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
23 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
24 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
25 before that date.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 955 passed the Senate on April 10, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 955 passed the House on May 28, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor