By: Landgraf H.B. No. 1200

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to increasing the criminal penalty for certain assaultive offenses committed in the physical presence of a child.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22.01, Penal Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-5) to read as follows:

(b-5) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), unless the conduct is punishable as a higher category of offense under that subsection or another provision of this section, an offense under Subsection (a)(1) is a state jail felony if:

(1) the actor is 21 years of age or older; and

(2) the offense is committed in the physical presence of another person who the actor knows or reasonably should know is younger than 18 years of age.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies 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 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2027.