

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 189

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the elimination of the statute of limitations for the offenses of sexual assault and aggravated sexual assault.

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

SECTION 1. Article 12.01, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 12.01. FELONIES. Except as provided in Article 12.03, felony indictments may be presented within these limits, and not afterward:

(1) no limitation:

(A) murder and manslaughter;

(B) sexual assault [~~under Section 22.011(a)(2), Penal Code,~~] or aggravated sexual assault [~~under Section 22.021(a)(1)(B), Penal Code,~~

~~[(C) sexual assault, if during the investigation of the offense biological matter is collected and subjected to forensic DNA testing and the testing results show that the matter does not match the victim or any other person whose identity is readily ascertained];~~

(C) [~~(D)~~] continuous sexual abuse of young child or children under Section 21.02, Penal Code;

(D) [~~(E)~~] indecency with a child under Section 21.11, Penal Code;

(E) [~~(F)~~] an offense involving leaving the scene

1 of an accident under Section 550.021, Transportation Code, if the
2 accident resulted in the death of a person;

3 (F) [~~(G)~~] trafficking of persons under Section
4 20A.02(a)(7) or (8), Penal Code; or

5 (G) [~~(H)~~] continuous trafficking of persons
6 under Section 20A.03, Penal Code;

7 (2) ten years from the date of the commission of the
8 offense:

9 (A) theft of any estate, real, personal or mixed,
10 by an executor, administrator, guardian or trustee, with intent to
11 defraud any creditor, heir, legatee, ward, distributee,
12 beneficiary or settlor of a trust interested in such estate;

13 (B) theft by a public servant of government
14 property over which he exercises control in his official capacity;

15 (C) forgery or the uttering, using or passing of
16 forged instruments;

17 (D) injury to an elderly or disabled individual
18 punishable as a felony of the first degree under Section 22.04,
19 Penal Code;

20 (E) [~~sexual assault, except as provided by~~
21 ~~Subdivision (1)~~];

22 [~~(F)~~] arson;

23 (F) [~~(G)~~] trafficking of persons under Section
24 20A.02(a)(1), (2), (3), or (4), Penal Code; or

25 (G) [~~(H)~~] compelling prostitution under Section
26 43.05(a)(1), Penal Code;

27 (3) seven years from the date of the commission of the

1 offense:

2 (A) misapplication of fiduciary property or
3 property of a financial institution;

4 (B) securing execution of document by deception;

5 (C) a felony violation under Chapter 162, Tax
6 Code;

7 (D) false statement to obtain property or credit
8 under Section 32.32, Penal Code;

9 (E) money laundering;

10 (F) credit card or debit card abuse under Section
11 32.31, Penal Code;

12 (G) fraudulent use or possession of identifying
13 information under Section 32.51, Penal Code;

14 (H) Medicaid fraud under Section 35A.02, Penal
15 Code; or

16 (I) bigamy under Section 25.01, Penal Code,
17 except as provided by Subdivision (6);

18 (4) five years from the date of the commission of the
19 offense:

20 (A) theft or robbery;

21 (B) except as provided by Subdivision (5),
22 kidnapping or burglary;

23 (C) injury to an elderly or disabled individual
24 that is not punishable as a felony of the first degree under Section
25 22.04, Penal Code;

26 (D) abandoning or endangering a child; or

27 (E) insurance fraud;

1 (5) if the investigation of the offense shows that the
2 victim is younger than 17 years of age at the time the offense is
3 committed, 20 years from the 18th birthday of the victim of one of
4 the following offenses:

5 (A) sexual performance by a child under Section
6 43.25, Penal Code;

7 (B) aggravated kidnapping under Section
8 20.04(a)(4), Penal Code, if the defendant committed the offense
9 with the intent to violate or abuse the victim sexually; or

10 (C) burglary under Section 30.02, Penal Code, if
11 the offense is punishable under Subsection (d) of that section and
12 the defendant committed the offense with the intent to commit an
13 offense described by Subdivision (1)(B) or (C) [~~(D)~~] of this
14 article or Paragraph (B) of this subdivision;

15 (6) ten years from the 18th birthday of the victim of
16 the offense:

17 (A) trafficking of persons under Section
18 20A.02(a)(5) or (6), Penal Code;

19 (B) injury to a child under Section 22.04, Penal
20 Code;

21 (C) compelling prostitution under Section
22 43.05(a)(2), Penal Code; or

23 (D) bigamy under Section 25.01, Penal Code, if
24 the investigation of the offense shows that the person, other than
25 the legal spouse of the defendant, whom the defendant marries or
26 purports to marry or with whom the defendant lives under the
27 appearance of being married is younger than 18 years of age at the

1 time the offense is committed; or

2 (7) three years from the date of the commission of the
3 offense: all other felonies.

4 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act does not apply
5 to an offense if the prosecution of that offense becomes barred by
6 limitation before the effective date of this Act. The prosecution
7 of that offense remains barred as if this Act had not taken effect.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.