

1-1 By: Campos (Senate Sponsor - Bettencourt) H.B. No. 1427  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2023;  
1-3 May 5, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal  
1-4 Justice; May 17, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote:  
1-5 Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 17, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the prosecution of the offense of harassment.  
1-18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:  
1-19 SECTION 1. Section 42.07(a), Penal Code, is amended to read  
1-20 as follows:  
1-21 (a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to harass,  
1-22 annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass another, the person:  
1-23 (1) initiates communication and in the course of the  
1-24 communication makes a comment, request, suggestion, or proposal  
1-25 that is obscene;  
1-26 (2) threatens, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm  
1-27 the person receiving the threat, to inflict bodily injury on the  
1-28 person or to commit a felony against the person, a member of the  
1-29 person's family or household, or the person's property;  
1-30 (3) conveys, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm  
1-31 the person receiving the report, a false report, which is known by  
1-32 the conveyor to be false, that another person has suffered death or  
1-33 serious bodily injury;  
1-34 (4) causes the telephone of another to ring repeatedly  
1-35 or makes repeated telephone communications anonymously or in a  
1-36 manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment,  
1-37 embarrass, or offend another;  
1-38 (5) makes a telephone call and intentionally fails to  
1-39 hang up or disengage the connection;  
1-40 (6) knowingly permits a telephone under the person's  
1-41 control to be used by another to commit an offense under this  
1-42 section;  
1-43 (7) sends repeated electronic communications in a  
1-44 manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment,  
1-45 embarrass, or offend another; ~~or~~  
1-46 (8) publishes on an Internet website, including a  
1-47 social media platform, repeated electronic communications in a  
1-48 manner reasonably likely to cause emotional distress, abuse, or  
1-49 torment to another person, unless the communications are made in  
1-50 connection with a matter of public concern; or  
1-51 (9) makes obscene, intimidating, or threatening  
1-52 telephone calls or other electronic communications from a temporary  
1-53 or disposable telephone number provided by an Internet application  
1-54 or other technological means.  
1-55 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
1-56 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
1-57 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
1-58 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
1-59 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
1-60 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
1-61 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred

2-1 before that date.

2-2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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