

1-1 By: Parker S.B. No. 955  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 28, 2025; February 13, 2025,  
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice;  
 1-4 March 19, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,  
 1-5 Nays 0; March 19, 2025, 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 punishment for the offense of trafficking of  
 1-18 persons.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Section 20A.02(b), Penal Code, as amended by  
 1-21 Chapters 93 (S.B. 1527) and 452 (H.B. 3554), Acts of the 88th  
 1-22 Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, is reenacted and amended to  
 1-23 read as follows:

1-24 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection and  
 1-25 Subsection (b-1), an offense under this section is a felony of the  
 1-26 second degree. An offense under this section is a felony of the  
 1-27 first degree if:

1-28 (1) the applicable conduct constitutes an offense  
 1-29 under Subsection (a)(5), (6), (7), or (8), regardless of whether  
 1-30 the actor knows the age of the child or whether the actor knows the  
 1-31 victim is disabled at the time of the offense;

1-32 (2) the commission of the offense results in serious  
 1-33 bodily injury to or the death of the person who is trafficked; ~~or~~

1-34 (3) the commission of the offense results in the death  
 1-35 of an unborn child of the person who is trafficked; or

1-36 (4) the actor:

1-37 (A) used or exhibited a deadly weapon during the  
 1-38 commission of the offense;

1-39 (B) intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly  
 1-40 impeded the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of the  
 1-41 trafficked person by applying pressure to the person's throat or  
 1-42 neck or by blocking the person's nose or mouth; ~~or~~

1-43 (C) subject to Subsection (b-1), recruited,  
 1-44 enticed, or obtained the trafficked person from a shelter or  
 1-45 facility operating as a residential treatment center that serves  
 1-46 runaway youth, foster children, the homeless, or persons subjected  
 1-47 to human trafficking, domestic violence, or sexual assault; or

1-48 (D) subject to Subsection (b-1), recruited,  
 1-49 enticed, or obtained the trafficked person from a correctional  
 1-50 facility while the trafficked person was confined in the facility.

1-51 SECTION 2. Section 20A.02(b-1), Penal Code, as amended by  
 1-52 Chapters 451 (H.B. 3553) and 452 (H.B. 3554), Acts of the 88th  
 1-53 Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, is reenacted and amended to  
 1-54 read as follows:

1-55 (b-1) An offense under this section is a felony of the first  
 1-56 degree punishable by imprisonment in the Texas Department of  
 1-57 Criminal Justice for life or for a term of not more than 99 years or  
 1-58 less than 25 years if it is shown on the trial of the offense that  
 1-59 the actor committed the offense in a location that was:

1-60 (1) on the premises of or within 1,000 feet of the  
 1-61 premises of:

- 2-1 (A) a school; [~~or~~]
- 2-2 (B) an institution of higher education or private
- 2-3 or independent institution of higher education, as defined by
- 2-4 Section 61.003, Education Code; [~~or~~]
- 2-5 (C) [~~(B)~~] a juvenile detention facility;
- 2-6 (D) [~~(C)~~] a post-adjudication secure
- 2-7 correctional facility;
- 2-8 (E) [~~(D)~~] a shelter or facility operating as a
- 2-9 residential treatment center that serves runaway youth, foster
- 2-10 children, people who are homeless, or persons subjected to human
- 2-11 trafficking, domestic violence, or sexual assault;
- 2-12 (F) [~~(E)~~] a community center offering youth
- 2-13 services and programs; [~~or~~]
- 2-14 (G) [~~(F)~~] a child-care facility, as defined by
- 2-15 Section 42.002, Human Resources Code; or
- 2-16 (H) a correctional facility; or
- 2-17 (2) on the premises where or within 1,000 feet of the
- 2-18 premises where:
- 2-19 (A) an official school function was taking place;
- 2-20 or
- 2-21 (B) an event sponsored or sanctioned by the
- 2-22 University Interscholastic League was taking place.

2-23 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only

2-24 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.

2-25 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is

2-26 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,

2-27 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For

2-28 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the

2-29 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred

2-30 before that date.

2-31 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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