

1-1 By: Bettencourt S.B. No. 990
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 29, 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

1-7		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	Flores	X			
1-9	Parker	X			
1-10	Hagenbuch	X			
1-11	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X			
1-12	Huffman	X			
1-13	King	X			
1-14	Miles	X			

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

1-17 relating to increasing the punishment for certain conduct
1-18 constituting the offense of murder.

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

1-20 SECTION 1. Section 19.03(a), Penal Code, is amended to read
1-21 as follows:

1-22 (a) A person commits an offense if the person commits murder
1-23 as defined under Section 19.02(b)(1) and:

1-24 (1) the person murders a peace officer or fireman who
1-25 is acting in the lawful discharge of an official duty and who the
1-26 person knows is a peace officer or fireman;

1-27 (2) the person intentionally commits the murder in the
1-28 course of committing or attempting to commit kidnapping, burglary,
1-29 robbery, aggravated sexual assault, arson, obstruction or
1-30 retaliation, or terroristic threat under Section 22.07(a)(1), (3),
1-31 (4), (5), or (6);

1-32 (3) the person commits the murder for remuneration or
1-33 the promise of remuneration or employs another to commit the murder
1-34 for remuneration or the promise of remuneration;

1-35 (4) the person commits the murder while escaping or
1-36 attempting to escape from a penal institution;

1-37 (5) the person, while incarcerated in a penal
1-38 institution, murders another:

1-39 (A) who is employed in the operation of the penal
1-40 institution; or

1-41 (B) with the intent to establish, maintain, or
1-42 participate in a combination or in the profits of a combination;

1-43 (6) the person:

1-44 (A) while incarcerated for an offense under this
1-45 section or Section 19.02, murders another; or

1-46 (B) while serving a sentence of life imprisonment
1-47 or a term of 99 years for an offense under Section 20.04, 22.021, or
1-48 29.03, murders another;

1-49 (7) the person murders more than one person:

1-50 (A) during the same criminal transaction; or

1-51 (B) during different criminal transactions but
1-52 the murders are committed pursuant to the same scheme or course of
1-53 conduct;

1-54 (8) the person murders an individual under 15 [10]
1-55 years of age; or

1-56 (9) ~~[the person murders an individual 10 years of age~~
1-57 ~~or older but younger than 15 years of age; or~~

1-58 ~~[-10-]~~ the person murders another person in
1-59 retaliation for or on account of the service or status of the other
1-60 person as a judge or justice of the supreme court, the court of
1-61 criminal appeals, a court of appeals, a district court, a criminal

2-1 district court, a constitutional county court, a statutory county
2-2 court, a justice court, or a municipal court.

2-3 SECTION 2. Section 1(b), Article 37.071, Code of Criminal
2-4 Procedure, is repealed.

2-5 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
2-6 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
2-7 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
2-8 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
2-9 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
2-10 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
2-11 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
2-12 before that date.

2-13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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