

CHAPTER 489

H.B. No. 1775

AN ACT

relating to the punishment for the offense of unlawfully removing voted ballots from a ballot box.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 276.003, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 276.003. UNLAWFUL REMOVAL FROM BALLOT BOX. (a) A person commits an offense if the person *knowingly or intentionally* removes or attempts to remove voted ballots from a ballot box in a manner not authorized by law.

(b) An offense under this section is a *felony of the third degree* [~~Class A misdemeanor~~] unless the person is convicted of an attempt. In that case, the offense is a Class A [~~B~~] misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to the punishment for an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense is committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurs before the effective date.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 1987.

SECTION 4. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on April 23, 1987, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1775 on May 18, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 14, 1987, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved June 17, 1987.

Effective Sept. 1, 1987.