

CHAPTER 387

H.B. No. 684

AN ACT

relating to the joinder of offenses in criminal cases.

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

SECTION 1. Section 3.01, Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3.01. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "criminal episode" means *the commission of two or more offenses, regardless of whether the harm is directed toward or inflicted upon more than one person or item of property, under the following circumstances:*

(1) *the offenses are committed pursuant to the same transaction or pursuant to two or more transactions that are connected or constitute a common scheme or plan; or*

(2) *the offenses are the repeated commission of the same or similar offenses [~~any one offense defined in Title 7 of this code (Offenses Against Property)~~].*

SECTION 2. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies to the joinder of prosecutions of offenses arising out of a single criminal episode only if each offense occurs after the effective date of this Act. 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.

(b) The joinder of prosecutions for offenses arising out of a single criminal episode if any of the offenses was committed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect before the changes made by this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for this purpose.

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 15, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate on May 22, 1987, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved June 17, 1987.

Effective Sept. 1, 1987.