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The Texas legislature enacted new criminal procedure, penal code and transportation code laws that went into effect in September 2011. Those laws include new penalties for possession of K-2, an amendment to the "Move Over Law" that includes tow trucks, making misuse of social media in an attempt to harm someone an offense, and adding missing persons with intellectual disabilities to the list of reasons to activate the Amber Alert.

House Bill 260 added the definition of "smuggling of persons." A person commits an offense if he/she intentionally uses a motor vehicle, watercraft or aircraft to transport a person with the intent to conceal or flee from a police officer. Smuggling of persons is a third degree felony if it is done for money or in a way that could result in the person suffering serious bodily injury or death.

House Bill 378 amended the Transportation Code by adding "stationary tow truck" to the requirement that a passing motorist must slow down or move over to the next lane.

House Bill 649 amended the Code of Criminal Procedure to allow victims of sexual assault to get protective orders; removes the requirement of victim younger than 18 years of age; and removes the requirement that a victim is in fear of further harm from the offender.

House Bill 718 amended the Penal Code to change the time that a person may picket a facility being used for a funeral. The picketing must be contained to at least three hours before or three hours after the service is completed if the picketing is within 1,000 feet.

House Bill 1075 amended the government code to add missing persons with intellectual disabilities to the Amber Alert System.

House Bill 1199 amended the Penal Code by making it a Class A misdemeanor if a driver's blood alcohol content is .15 or greater. It also makes it a second degree felony if a person caused serious bodily injury to another in the nature of a traumatic brain injury that results in a persistent vegetative state.

House Bill 1215 amended the Penal Code to require law enforcement to make a written report for any alleged violation of "unauthorized acquisition or transfer" of certain financial information.

House Bill 1666 amended the Penal Code to make it an offense to use the name of persona of another person without their consent and with the intent to harm, defraud, intimidate, or threaten any person through the use of any social networking site or other internet websites.

House Bill 1721 amended the Code of Criminal Procedure to make a protective order available to a victim of stalking under Section 42.072 of the Penal Code.

House Bill 2118 amended the Health and Safety Code to add synthetic compounds to Penalty Group 2. This includes K-2. Senate Bill 331 amended the Health and Safety Code to add synthetic cannabinoids (such as K-2 or Spice) to Penalty Group 2-A to make possession of the synthetics a Class B misdemeanor if it is less than two ounces, Class A if it is between two and four ounces and a state jail felony if it is more than four ounces. It is also illegal to sell the K2.

House Bill 3000 amended the Penal Code to make it a first degree felony to engage in the continuing trafficking of persons – two or more times during a period of time more than 30 days.

House Bill 3439 amended the Code of Criminal Procedure to add to the definition of a missing child that the child was taken or retained without the permission of the custodian with the effect of depriving the custodian of the child unless the taking was prompted by family violence. The definition also included taking the child outside the United States.

Senate Bill 24 amended the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code regarding human trafficking by moving human trafficking and compelling prostitution to 3G offenses (harsher, more inflexible punishment); increases the penalty of compelling prostitution of a child to a first degree felony; and allows for a protective order against a trafficker.

Senate Bill 82 amended the definition of stalking in the Penal Code to add threats of bodily injury or death to an individual with whom the other person has a dating relationship.

Senate Bill 198 amended the Code of Criminal Procedure with the Romeo and Juliet Law – if the actor is not more than four years older and the victim is at least 15 years old, the actor may petition the court to not have to register as a sex offender.

Senate Bill 270 amended the Family Code to allow a protective order to be issued to prevent the removal of a pet or companion animal and includes the harming, interfering or threatening to harm the animal.

Senate Bill 377 amended the Penal Code to make the murder of a person who is younger than 10 years of age a capital offense.

Senate Bill 407 makes it a Class C misdemeanor for a minor to send, by electronic means, to another minor visual materials depicting a minor engaging in sexual contact.

Senate Bill 496 added the use of a watercraft to the offense of evading arrest.

Senate Bill 887 amended the Penal Code to make stealing an ATM machine or its content or components a second degree felony.