

- SUBJECT:** Increasing statute of limitations for abandoning or endangering a child
- COMMITTEE:** Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Collier, Zedler, K. Bell, J. González, Hunter, P. King, Moody, Murr, Pacheco
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Frederick Frazier, Dallas Police Association, State FOP; Jessica Anderson, Houston Police Department; Tiana Sanford, Montgomery County District Attorney's Office)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Code of Criminal Procedure art. 12.01 establishes the statutes of limitations for filing criminal charges. Charges of abandoning or endangering a child must be filed within five years of the commission of the offense.
- Concerns have been raised that a five-year statute of limitations on this crime might not give victims adequate time to process the crime and be ready to come forward to seek justice.
- DIGEST:** HB 442 would increase the statute of limitations for the crime of abandoning or endangering a child from five years to 10 years from the date the crime was committed.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would not apply to offenses for which the prosecution was barred by the limitation in effect before the bill's effective date.