

**SUBJECT:** Increasing penalty for assault of a pregnant woman to third-degree felony

**COMMITTEE:** Criminal Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Collier, K. Bell, J. González, Hunter, P. King, Moody, Murr, Pacheco

0 nays

1 absent — Zedler

**WITNESSES:** For — Doreen Sims, Stop Abuse Campaign; Mary Castle, Texas Values; Kortney Williams (*Registered, but did not testify*: Girien Salazar, Christian Life Commission-Baptist General Convention of Texas; Matthew Williamson, Dallas Police Department; Ellen Williams, Stop Abuse Campaign; Amy O'Donnell and Joe Poiman, Texas Alliance for Life; Michael Barba, Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; Noel Johnson, Texas Municipal Police Association; Robert Bland; Micah Williams)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Shannon Edmonds, Texas District and County Attorneys Association)

**BACKGROUND:** Penal Code sec. 22.01 makes it a crime under assault to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly cause bodily injury. Assault involving bodily injury is punished as a class A misdemeanor (up to one year in jail and/or a maximum fine of \$4,000) except under certain circumstances in which it is a third-degree felony (two to 10 years in prison and an optional fine of up to \$10,000).

**DIGEST:** CSHB 902 would make assault involving bodily injury a third-degree felony if the defendant knew that the victim was pregnant at the time of the offense.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would apply only to offenses committed on or after that date.