

SUBCHAPTER E. GAME ROOMS

This section was amended by the 84th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see S.B. 866 and S.B. 1210, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting this section.

Sec. 234.131. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Amusement redemption machine" means any electronic, electromechanical, or mechanical contrivance designed, made, and adopted for bona fide amusement purposes that rewards the player exclusively with noncash merchandise, prizes, toys, or novelties, or a representation of value redeemable for those items, with a wholesale value available from a single play of the game or device in an amount not more than 10 times the amount charged to play the game or device once or \$5, whichever amount is less.

(2) "Game room" means a for-profit business located in a building or place that contains six or more:

(A) amusement redemption machines; or

(B) electronic, electromechanical, or mechanical contrivances that, for consideration, afford a player the opportunity to obtain a prize or thing of value, the award of which is determined solely or partially by chance, regardless of whether the contrivance is designed, made, or adopted solely for bona fide amusement purposes.

(3) "Game room owner" means a person who:

(A) has an ownership interest in, or receives the profits from, a game room or an amusement redemption machine located in a game room;

(B) is a partner, director, or officer of a business, including a company or corporation, that has an ownership interest in a game room or in an amusement redemption machine located in a game room;

(C) is a shareholder that holds more than 10 percent of the outstanding shares of a business, including a

company or corporation, that has an ownership interest in a game room or in an amusement redemption machine located in a game room;

(D) has been issued by the county clerk an assumed name certificate for a business that owns a game room or an amusement redemption machine located in a game room;

(E) signs a lease for a game room;

(F) opens an account for utilities for a game room;

(G) receives a certificate of occupancy or certificate of compliance for a game room;

(H) pays for advertising for a game room; or

(I) signs an alarm permit for a game room.

(4) "Operator" means an individual who:

(A) operates a cash register, cash drawer, or other depository on the premises of a game room or of a business where the money earned or the records of credit card transactions or other credit transactions generated in any manner by the operation of a game room or activities conducted in a game room are kept;

(B) displays, delivers, or provides to a customer of a game room merchandise, goods, entertainment, or other services offered on the premises of a game room;

(C) takes orders from a customer of a game room for merchandise, goods, entertainment, or other services offered on the premises of a game room;

(D) acts as a door attendant to regulate entry of customers or other persons into a game room; or

(E) supervises or manages other persons at a game room in the performance of an activity listed in this subdivision.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1284 (H.B. [2123](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

This section was amended by the 84th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see S.B. 866 and S.B. 1210, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting this section.

Sec. 234.132. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only to:

(1) a county that has [with] a population of less than 25,000, [that] is adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico, and is within 50 miles of an international border;

(2) a county that has a population of four million or more;

(3) a county that is adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico and to a county that has a population of four million or more; and

(4) a county located on the Texas-Mexico border that has a population of less than 300,000 and contains a municipality with a population of 200,000 or more.

Sec. 234.132. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only to:

(1) a county that has [with] a population of less than 25,000, [that] is adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico, and is within 50 miles of an international border;

(2) a county that has a population of four million or more; and

(3) a county that has a population of 550,000 or more and is adjacent to a county described by Subdivision (2).

This section was amended by the 84th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see S.B. 866 and S.B. 1210, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting this section.

Sec. 234.133. AUTHORITY TO REGULATE. To promote the public health, safety, and welfare, the commissioners court of a county may regulate the operation of game rooms and may:

(1) restrict the location of game rooms to specified areas of the county, including the unincorporated area of the county;

(2) prohibit a game room location within a certain distance, prescribed by the commissioners court, of a school, regular place of religious worship, or residential neighborhood; or

(3) restrict the number of game rooms that may operate in a specified area of the county.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1284 (H.B. [2123](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

This section was amended by the 84th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see S.B. [866](#) and S.B. [1210](#), 84th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting this section.

Sec. 234.134. LICENSES OR PERMITS. (a) A county may require that an owner or operator of a game room obtain a license or permit or renew a license or permit on a periodic basis to own or operate a game room in the county. An application for a license or permit must be made in accordance with regulations adopted by the county.

(b) Regulations adopted under this section may provide for the denial, suspension, or revocation of a license or permit.

(c) A district court has jurisdiction of a suit that arises from the denial, suspension, or revocation of a license or other permit by a county.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1284 (H.B. [2123](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

This section was amended by the 84th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see S.B. 866 and S.B. 1210, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting this section.

Sec. 234.135. FEES. A county may impose a fee not to exceed \$1,000 on an applicant for a license or permit or for the renewal of the license or permit required under this subchapter. The fee must be based on the cost of processing the application and investigating the applicant.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1284 (H.B. 2123), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

This section was amended by the 84th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see S.B. 866 and S.B. 1210, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting this section.

Sec. 234.136. INSPECTION. (a) A peace officer or county employee may inspect a business in the county to determine the number of amusement redemption machines or machines described by Section 234.131(2)(B) subject to regulation under this subchapter that are located on the premises of the business.

(b) A peace officer or county employee may inspect any business in which six or more amusement redemption machines or machines described by Section 234.131(2)(B) are located to determine whether the business is in compliance with this subchapter or regulations adopted under this subchapter.

(c) A person violates this subchapter if the person fails to allow a peace officer or county employee to conduct an inspection under this section.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1284 (H.B. [2123](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

This section was amended by the 84th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see S.B. [866](#) and S.B. [1210](#), 84th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting this section.

Sec. 234.137. INJUNCTION; CIVIL PENALTY. (a) A county may sue in district court for an injunction to prohibit the violation or threatened violation of this subchapter or a regulation adopted under Section [234.133](#).

(b) A person who violates this subchapter or a regulation adopted under Section [234.133](#) is liable to the county for a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation. Each day a violation continues is considered a separate violation for purposes of assessing the civil penalty under this subsection. A county may bring suit in district court to recover a civil penalty authorized by this subsection.

(c) The county is entitled to recover reasonable expenses incurred in obtaining injunctive relief, civil penalties, or both, under this section, including reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, and investigatory costs.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1284 (H.B. [2123](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

This section was amended by the 84th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see S.B. [866](#) and S.B. [1210](#), 84th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting this section.

Sec. 234.138. CRIMINAL PENALTY. (a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly operates a game room in violation of a regulation adopted under Section [234.133](#).

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1284 (H.B. [2123](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

This section was amended by the 84th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see S.B. [866](#) and S.B. [1210](#), 84th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting this section.

Sec. 234.139. CUMULATIVE EFFECT. Authority under this subchapter is cumulative of other authority that a county has to regulate game rooms and does not limit that authority.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1284 (H.B. [2123](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

This section was amended by the 84th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see S.B. [866](#) and S.B. [1210](#), 84th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting this section.

Sec. 234.140. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS. (a) This subchapter does not legalize any activity prohibited under the Penal Code or other state law.

(b) A person's compliance with this subchapter, including operating a game room under a license or permit issued under this chapter, is not a defense to prosecution for an offense under Chapter 47, Penal Code.

(c) A person who is subject to prosecution under Section [234.138](#) and any other law may be prosecuted under either or both laws.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1284 (H.B. [2123](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.