

AN ACT

relating to solicitation of a person to buy drinks for consumption by an alcoholic beverage retailer or the retailer's employee; authorizing a civil penalty; amending a provision that is subject to a criminal penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 11.64(a), Alcoholic Beverage Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) When the commission or administrator is authorized to suspend a permit or license under this code, the commission or administrator shall give the permittee or licensee the opportunity to pay a civil penalty rather than have the permit or license suspended, unless the basis for the suspension is a violation of Section 11.61(b)(14), 22.12, 28.11, 32.17(a)(2), 32.17(a)(3), 61.71(a)(5), 61.71(a)(6), 61.74(a)(14), 69.13, 71.09, 101.04, 101.63, 104.01(a)(4), 106.03, 106.06, or 106.15, the sale or offer for sale of an alcoholic beverage during hours prohibited by Chapter 105, consumption or the permitting of consumption of an alcoholic beverage on the person's licensed or permitted premises during hours prohibited by Chapter 105 or Section 32.17(a)(7), or an offense relating to prostitution, trafficking of persons, or gambling, in which case the commission or administrator shall determine whether the permittee or licensee may have the opportunity to pay a civil penalty rather than have the permit or

1 license suspended. The commission shall adopt rules addressing
2 when suspension may be imposed pursuant to this section without the
3 opportunity to pay a civil penalty. In adopting rules under this
4 subsection, the commission shall consider the type of license or
5 permit held, the type of violation, any aggravating or ameliorating
6 circumstances concerning the violation, and any past violations of
7 this code by the permittee or licensee. In cases in which a civil
8 penalty is assessed, the commission or administrator shall
9 determine the amount of the penalty. The amount of the civil
10 penalty may not be less than \$150 or more than \$25,000 for each day
11 the permit or license was to have been suspended. If the licensee
12 or permittee does not pay the penalty before the sixth day after the
13 commission or administrator notifies him of the amount, the
14 commission or administrator shall impose the suspension.

15 SECTION 2. Section 104.01, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Sec. 104.01. LEWD, IMMORAL, INDECENT CONDUCT. (a) No
18 person authorized to sell beer at retail, nor the person's [~~his~~]
19 agent, servant, or employee, may engage in or permit conduct on the
20 premises of the retailer which is lewd, immoral, or offensive to
21 public decency, including, but not limited to, any of the following
22 acts:

23 (1) the use of loud and vociferous or obscene, vulgar,
24 or indecent language, or permitting its use;

25 (2) the exposure of a person or permitting a person to
26 expose himself or herself [~~his person~~];

27 (3) rudely displaying or permitting a person to rudely

1 display a pistol or other deadly weapon in a manner calculated to
2 disturb persons in the retail establishment;

3 (4) solicitation of any person to buy drinks for
4 consumption by the retailer or any of the retailer's [~~his~~]
5 employees;

6 (5) being intoxicated on the licensed premises;

7 (6) permitting lewd or vulgar entertainment or acts;

8 (7) permitting solicitations of persons for immoral or
9 sexual purposes;

10 (8) failing or refusing to comply with state or
11 municipal health or sanitary laws or ordinances; or

12 (9) possession of a narcotic or any equipment used or
13 designed for the administering of a narcotic or permitting a person
14 on the licensed premises to do so.

15 (b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(4), a solicitation is
16 presumed if an alcoholic beverage is sold or offered for sale for
17 an amount in excess of the retailer's listed, advertised, or
18 customary price. The presumption may be rebutted only by evidence
19 presented under oath.

20 SECTION 3. (a) Section 11.64(a), Alcoholic Beverage Code,
21 as amended by this Act, applies only to the imposition of a penalty
22 for a violation that occurs on or after the effective date of this
23 Act. The imposition of a penalty for a violation that occurs before
24 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect
25 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is
26 continued in effect for that purpose.

27 (b) Section 104.01(b), Alcoholic Beverage Code, as added by

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1 this Act, applies only to the sale or offer for sale of an alcoholic
2 beverage on or after the effective date of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3982 was passed by the House on May 11, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 129, Nays 4, 3 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3982 was passed by the Senate on May 26, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor