

By: Zerwas

H.B. No. 749

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the distribution, possession, purchase, consumption,  
and receipt of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and tobacco products.

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

SECTION 1. Section 161.081, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (1-b) to read as follows:

(1-b) "Minor" means a person under 21 years of age.

SECTION 2. Subchapter H, Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 161.0815 to read as follows:

Sec. 161.0815. NONAPPLICABILITY. This subchapter does not apply to a product that is:

(1) approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use in the treatment of nicotine or smoking addiction; and

(2) labeled with a "Drug Facts" panel in accordance with regulations of the United States Food and Drug Administration.

SECTION 3. The heading to Section 161.082, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 161.082. SALE OF CIGARETTES, E-CIGARETTES, OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO PERSONS YOUNGER THAN 21 [~~18~~] YEARS OF AGE PROHIBITED; PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED.

SECTION 4. Sections 161.082(a) and (e), Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if the person, with criminal

1 negligence:

2 (1) sells, gives, or causes to be sold or given a  
3 cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product to someone who is  
4 younger than 21 [~~18~~] years of age; or

5 (2) sells, gives, or causes to be sold or given a  
6 cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product to another person who  
7 intends to deliver it to someone who is younger than 21 [~~18~~] years  
8 of age.

9 (e) A proof of identification satisfies the requirements of  
10 Subsection (d) if it contains a physical description and photograph  
11 consistent with the person's appearance, purports to establish that  
12 the person is 21 [~~18~~] years of age or older, and was issued by a  
13 governmental agency. The proof of identification may include a  
14 driver's license issued by this state or another state, a passport,  
15 or an identification card issued by a state or the federal  
16 government.

17 SECTION 5. The heading to Section 161.083, Health and  
18 Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

19 Sec. 161.083. SALE OF CIGARETTES, E-CIGARETTES, OR TOBACCO  
20 PRODUCTS TO PERSONS YOUNGER THAN 30 [~~27~~] YEARS OF AGE.

21 SECTION 6. Sections 161.083(a), (b), and (c), Health and  
22 Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

23 (a) A [~~Pursuant to federal regulation under 21 C.F.R.~~  
24 ~~Section 1140.14(b), a~~] person may not sell, give, or cause to be  
25 sold or given a cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product to  
26 someone who is younger than 30 [~~27~~] years of age unless the person  
27 to whom the cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product was sold or

1 given presents an apparently valid proof of identification.

2 (b) A retailer shall adequately supervise and train the  
3 retailer's agents and employees to prevent a violation of  
4 Subsection [~~Subsections~~] (a) [~~and (a-1)~~].

5 (c) A proof of identification described by Section  
6 161.082(e) satisfies the requirements of Subsection [~~Subsections~~]  
7 (a) [~~and (a-1)~~].

8 SECTION 7. Section 161.084, Health and Safety Code, is  
9 amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (b-1) and  
10 (b-2) to read as follows:

11 (b) The sign must include the statement:

12 PURCHASING OR ATTEMPTING TO PURCHASE CIGARETTES,  
13 E-CIGARETTES, OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS BY A PERSON [~~MINOR~~] UNDER 21 [~~18~~]  
14 YEARS OF AGE IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. SALE OR PROVISION OF CIGARETTES,  
15 E-CIGARETTES, OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO A PERSON [~~MINOR~~] UNDER 21 [~~18~~]  
16 YEARS OF AGE IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. UPON CONVICTION, A CLASS C  
17 MISDEMEANOR, INCLUDING A FINE OF UP TO \$500, MAY BE IMPOSED.  
18 VIOLATIONS MAY BE REPORTED TO THE TEXAS COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE BY  
19 CALLING (insert toll-free telephone number). PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD  
20 NOT SMOKE. SMOKERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE BABIES WHO ARE BORN  
21 PREMATURE OR WITH LOW BIRTH WEIGHT.

22 (b-1) Immediately following the statement described by  
23 Subsection (b), the sign described by that subsection must include  
24 the statement:

25 THE PROHIBITIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE DO NOT APPLY TO A PERSON WHO  
26 WAS BORN ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31, 2001.

27 (b-2) This subsection and Subsection (b-1) expire September

1 1, 2022.

2 SECTION 8. Sections 161.085(a) and (b), Health and Safety  
3 Code, are amended to read as follows:

4 (a) Each retailer shall notify each individual employed by  
5 that retailer who is to be engaged in retail sales of cigarettes,  
6 e-cigarettes, or tobacco products that state law:

7 (1) prohibits the sale or distribution of cigarettes,  
8 e-cigarettes, or tobacco products to any person who is younger than  
9 21 [~~18~~] years of age as provided by Section 161.082 and that a  
10 violation of that section is a Class C misdemeanor; and

11 (2) requires each person who sells cigarettes,  
12 e-cigarettes, or tobacco products at retail or by vending machine  
13 to post a warning notice as provided by Section 161.084, requires  
14 each employee to ensure that the appropriate sign is always  
15 properly displayed while that employee is exercising the employee's  
16 duties, and provides that a violation of Section 161.084 is a Class  
17 C misdemeanor.

18 (b) The notice required by this section [~~Subsection (a)~~]  
19 must be provided within 72 hours of the date an individual begins to  
20 engage in retail sales of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or tobacco  
21 products. The individual shall signify that the individual has  
22 received the notice required by this section [~~Subsection (a)~~] by  
23 signing a form stating that the law has been fully explained, that  
24 the individual understands the law, and that the individual, as a  
25 condition of employment, agrees to comply with the law.

26 SECTION 9. Section 161.086(b), Health and Safety Code, is  
27 amended to read as follows:

1 (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to:

2 (1) a facility or business that is not open to persons  
3 younger than 21 [~~18~~] years of age at any time;

4 (2) that part of a facility or business that is a  
5 humidor or other enclosure designed to store cigars in a  
6 climate-controlled environment and that is not open to persons  
7 younger than 21 years of age at any time; or

8 (3) a premises for which a person holds a package store  
9 permit issued under the Alcoholic Beverage Code and that is not open  
10 to persons younger than 21 years of age at any time.

11 SECTION 10. Section [161.087](#), Health and Safety Code, is  
12 amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (c) and adding  
13 Subsections (a-1) and (b-1) to read as follows:

14 (a) A person may not distribute [~~to persons younger than 18~~  
15 ~~years of age~~]:

16 (1) a free sample of a cigarette, e-cigarette, or  
17 tobacco product; or

18 (2) a coupon or other item that the recipient may use  
19 to receive a free [~~or discounted~~] cigarette, e-cigarette, or  
20 tobacco product or a sample cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco  
21 product.

22 (a-1) A person may not distribute to persons younger than 21  
23 years of age a coupon or other item that the recipient may use to  
24 receive a discounted cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product.

25 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a person,  
26 including a permit holder, may not accept or redeem, offer to accept  
27 or redeem, or hire a person to accept or redeem.

1           (1) a coupon or other item that the recipient may use  
2 to receive a free [~~or discounted~~] cigarette, e-cigarette, or  
3 tobacco product or a sample cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco  
4 product; or

5           (2) a coupon or other item that the recipient may use  
6 to receive a discounted cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product  
7 if the recipient is younger than 21 [~~18~~] years of age.

8           (b-1) A coupon or other item that [~~such~~] a recipient  
9 described by Subsection (b) may use to receive a [~~free or~~]  
10 discounted cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product [~~or a sample~~  
11 ~~cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product~~] may not be redeemable  
12 through mail or courier delivery.

13           (c) Subsections (a)(2), (a-1), [~~and~~] (b), and (b-1) do not  
14 apply to a transaction between permit holders unless the  
15 transaction is a retail sale.

16           SECTION 11. Sections 161.088(b) and (d), Health and Safety  
17 Code, are amended to read as follows:

18           (b) The comptroller may make block grants to counties and  
19 municipalities to be used by local law enforcement agencies to  
20 enforce this subchapter and Subchapter R in a manner that can  
21 reasonably be expected to reduce the extent to which cigarettes,  
22 e-cigarettes, and tobacco products are sold or distributed,  
23 including by delivery sale, to persons who are younger than 21 [~~18~~]  
24 years of age. At least annually, random unannounced inspections  
25 shall be conducted at various locations where cigarettes,  
26 e-cigarettes, and tobacco products are sold or distributed,  
27 including by delivery sale, to ensure compliance with this

1 subchapter and Subchapter R. The comptroller shall rely, to the  
2 fullest extent possible, on local law enforcement agencies to  
3 enforce this subchapter and Subchapter R.

4 (d) The use of a person younger than 21 [~~18~~] years of age to  
5 act as a minor decoy to test compliance with this subchapter and  
6 Subchapter R shall be conducted in a fashion that promotes  
7 fairness. A person may be enlisted by the comptroller or a local  
8 law enforcement agency to act as a minor decoy only if the following  
9 requirements are met:

10 (1) written parental consent is obtained for the use  
11 of a person younger than 18 years of age to act as a minor decoy to  
12 test compliance with this subchapter and Subchapter R;

13 (2) at the time of the inspection, order, or delivery,  
14 the minor decoy is younger than 21 [~~17~~] years of age;

15 (3) the minor decoy has an appearance that would cause  
16 a reasonably prudent seller of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or tobacco  
17 products to request identification and proof of age;

18 (4) the minor decoy carries either the minor's own  
19 identification showing the minor's correct date of birth or carries  
20 no identification, and a minor decoy who carries identification  
21 presents it on request to any seller of or any person who delivers  
22 cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or tobacco products; and

23 (5) the minor decoy answers truthfully any questions  
24 about the minor's age at the time of the inspection, order, or  
25 delivery.

26 SECTION 12. Section [161.251](#), Health and Safety Code, is  
27 amended by adding Subdivision (1-b) to read as follows:

1           (1-b) "Minor" means a person under 21 years of age.

2           SECTION 13. Sections 161.252(a), (b), and (c), Health and  
3 Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

4           (a) An individual who is younger than 21 [~~18~~] years of age  
5 commits an offense if the individual:

6                 (1) possesses, purchases, consumes, or accepts a  
7 cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product; or

8                 (2) falsely represents himself or herself to be 21  
9 [~~18~~] years of age or older by displaying proof of age that is false,  
10 fraudulent, or not actually proof of the individual's own age in  
11 order to obtain possession of, purchase, or receive a cigarette,  
12 e-cigarette, or tobacco product.

13           (b) It is an exception to the application of this section  
14 that the individual younger than 21 [~~18~~] years of age possessed the  
15 cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product in the presence of[+]

16                 ~~[(1) an adult parent, a guardian, or a spouse of the~~  
17 ~~individual, or~~

18                 ~~[(2)]~~ an employer of the individual, if possession or  
19 receipt of the cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product is  
20 required in the performance of the employee's duties as an  
21 employee.

22           (c) It is an exception to the application of this section  
23 that the individual younger than 21 [~~18~~] years of age is  
24 participating in an inspection or test of compliance in accordance  
25 with Section 161.088.

26           SECTION 14. Sections 161.452(b) and (c), Health and Safety  
27 Code, are amended to read as follows:



1 (b) A person taking a delivery sale order of cigarettes  
2 shall comply with:

3 (1) the age verification requirements prescribed by  
4 Section 161.453;

5 (2) the disclosure requirements prescribed by Section  
6 161.454;

7 ~~(3) [the shipping requirements prescribed by Section~~  
8 ~~161.455;~~

9 ~~[(4)]~~ the registration and reporting requirements  
10 prescribed by Section 161.456;

11 (4) ~~[(5)]~~ the tax collection requirements prescribed  
12 by Section 161.457; and

13 (5) ~~[(6)]~~ each law of this state that generally  
14 applies to sales of cigarettes that occur entirely within this  
15 state, including a law:

16 (A) imposing a tax; or

17 (B) prescribing a permitting or tax-stamping  
18 requirement.

19 (c) A person taking a delivery sale order of e-cigarettes  
20 shall comply with:

21 (1) the age verification requirements prescribed by  
22 Section 161.453;

23 (2) the disclosure requirements prescribed by Section  
24 161.454;

25 ~~(3) [the shipping requirements prescribed by Section~~  
26 ~~161.455;~~

27 ~~[(4)]~~ the registration and reporting requirements

1 prescribed by Section 161.456; and

2           (4) [~~5~~] each law of this state that generally  
3 applies to sales of e-cigarettes that occur entirely within this  
4 state.

5           SECTION 15. Sections 161.453(a) and (c), Health and Safety  
6 Code, are amended to read as follows:

7           (a) A person may not mail or ship cigarettes in connection  
8 with a delivery sale order unless before mailing or shipping the  
9 cigarettes the person accepting the delivery sale order first:

10           (1) obtains from the prospective customer a  
11 certification that includes:

12                   (A) reliable confirmation that the purchaser is  
13 at least 21 [~~18~~] years of age; and

14                   (B) a statement signed by the prospective  
15 purchaser in writing and under penalty of law:

16                           (i) certifying the prospective purchaser's  
17 address and date of birth;

18                           (ii) confirming that the prospective  
19 purchaser understands that signing another person's name to the  
20 certification is illegal, that sales of cigarettes to an individual  
21 under the age prescribed by Section 161.082 are illegal under state  
22 law, and that the purchase of cigarettes by an individual under that  
23 age is illegal under state law; and

24                           (iii) confirming that the prospective  
25 purchaser wants to receive mailings from a tobacco company;

26           (2) makes a good faith effort to verify the  
27 information contained in the certification provided by the

1 prospective purchaser under Subdivision (1) against a commercially  
2 available database or obtains a photocopy or other image of a  
3 government-issued identification bearing a photograph of the  
4 prospective purchaser and stating the date of birth or age of the  
5 prospective purchaser;

6 (3) sends to the prospective purchaser, by e-mail or  
7 other means, a notice that complies with Section 161.454; and

8 (4) for an order made over the Internet or as a result  
9 of an advertisement, receives payment for the delivery sale from  
10 the prospective purchaser by a credit or debit card that has been  
11 issued in the purchaser's name or by check.

12 (c) A person may not mail or ship e-cigarettes in connection  
13 with a delivery sale order unless before accepting a delivery sale  
14 order the person verifies that the prospective purchaser is at  
15 least 21 [~~18~~] years of age through a commercially available  
16 database or aggregate of databases that is regularly used for the  
17 purpose of age and identity verification. After the order is  
18 accepted, the person must use a method of mailing or shipping that  
19 requires an adult signature.

20 SECTION 16. Sections 161.083(a-1) and 161.455, Health and  
21 Safety Code, are repealed.

22 SECTION 17. (a) The changes in law made by this Act to  
23 Subchapters H, N, and R, Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, apply  
24 only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this  
25 Act. For purposes of this section, an offense is committed before  
26 the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense  
27 occurred before that date.

1           (b) An offense committed before the effective date of this  
2 Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed,  
3 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

4           (c) The changes in law made by this Act to Subchapters H, N,  
5 and R, Chapter [161](#), Health and Safety Code, do not apply to a person  
6 who was born on or before August 31, 2001.

7           SECTION 18. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.