

By: Morrison

H.B. No. 1628

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of coastal counties to adopt certain rules for island parks, beach parks, and public beaches; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 321, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter E to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER E. COASTAL COUNTY ISLAND PARK, BEACH PARK, AND PUBLIC BEACH RULES

Sec. 321.101. APPLICABILITY. Notwithstanding Section 321.001, this subchapter applies only to:

(1) a county described by Section 321.001; and  
(2) a county that borders on the Gulf of Mexico and has within its boundaries a beach that:

(A) is wholly or partly operated by the county as a park; or

(B) is otherwise controlled or maintained by the county.

Sec. 321.102. RULES. The commissioners court of a county by order may adopt reasonable rules on camping, access, litter, resource protection, or waste disposal if the rules:

(1) are consistent with Chapters 61 and 63, Natural Resources Code, and rules adopted under those chapters; and

(2) apply only in the following locations controlled

1 or maintained by the county:

2 (A) an island park;

3 (B) a beach park; or

4 (C) any part of a public beach.

5 Sec. 321.103. OFFENSE. (a) A person commits an offense if  
6 the person violates a rule adopted under Section 321.102.

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

8 SECTION 2. The heading to Chapter 321, Local Government  
9 Code, is amended to read as follows:

10 CHAPTER 321. [~~PARKS BOARD AND PARK BONDS.~~] ISLAND PARKS, BEACH  
11 PARKS, AND PUBLIC BEACHES OF COASTAL COUNTIES

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.