

By: Alvarado

S.B. No. 836

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the prohibited sale of flavored cigarettes,
3 e-cigarettes, and tobacco products and administrative penalties
4 for the prohibited sales.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 161.081(1-a), Health and Safety Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (1-a) "E-cigarette" means an electronic cigarette or
9 any other device that simulates smoking by using a mechanical
10 heating element, battery, or electronic circuit to deliver nicotine
11 or other substances to the individual inhaling from the device or a
12 consumable liquid solution or other material aerosolized or
13 vaporized during the use of an electronic cigarette or other device
14 described by this subdivision, regardless of whether the liquid or
15 other material contains nicotine. The term does not include a
16 prescription medical device unrelated to the cessation of smoking.
17 The term includes:

18 (A) a device described by this subdivision
19 regardless of whether the device is manufactured, distributed, or
20 sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, or e-pipe or under another product
21 name or description; and

22 (B) a component, part, or accessory for the
23 device, regardless of whether the component, part, or accessory is
24 sold separately from the device.

1 SECTION 2. Section 161.083(d), Health and Safety Code, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a violation
4 of this section is not a violation of this subchapter for purposes
5 of Section 161.0901 [~~154.1142 or 155.0592, Tax Code~~].

6 SECTION 3. Subchapter H, Chapter 161, Health and Safety
7 Code, is amended by adding Section 161.0901 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 161.0901. DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CIGARETTE AND
9 TOBACCO PRODUCTS RETAILERS. (a) A retailer is subject to
10 disciplinary action as provided by this section if an agent or
11 employee of the retailer commits an offense under this subchapter,
12 Subchapter I, or Subchapter K.

13 (b) If the comptroller finds, after notice and an
14 opportunity for a hearing as provided by Chapter 2001, Government
15 Code, that a permit holder violated this subchapter, Subchapter I,
16 or Subchapter K at a place of business for which a permit is issued,
17 the comptroller may suspend the permit for that place of business
18 and assess an administrative penalty as follows:

19 (1) for a permit holder who has not been found to have
20 violated this subchapter, Subchapter I, or Subchapter K at that
21 place of business during the 24-month period preceding the
22 violation, the comptroller may impose on the permit holder a fine in
23 an amount not to exceed \$1,000;

24 (2) for a permit holder who has been found to have
25 violated this subchapter, Subchapter I, or Subchapter K at that
26 place of business once during the 24-month period preceding the
27 violation, the comptroller may impose on the permit holder a fine in

1 an amount not to exceed \$2,000; and

2 (3) for a permit holder who has been found to have
3 violated this subchapter, Subchapter I, or Subchapter K at that
4 place of business at least twice during the 24-month period
5 preceding the violation, the comptroller may:

6 (A) impose on the permit holder a fine in an
7 amount not to exceed \$3,000; and

8 (B) suspend the permit for that place of business
9 for not more than five days.

10 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (e), if the permit
11 holder has been found to have violated this subchapter, Subchapter
12 I, or Subchapter K on four or more previous and separate occasions
13 at the same place of business during the 24-month period preceding
14 the violation, the comptroller shall revoke the permit issued under
15 Chapter 154 or 155, Tax Code, as applicable. If the permit holder
16 does not hold a permit under Chapter 154 or 155, Tax Code, the
17 comptroller shall revoke the permit issued under Section 151.201,
18 Tax Code.

19 (d) A permit holder whose permit has been revoked under this
20 section may not apply for a permit for the same place of business
21 before the expiration of six months after the effective date of the
22 revocation.

23 (e) For purposes of this section, the comptroller may
24 suspend a permit but may not revoke the permit under Subsection (c)
25 if the comptroller finds that:

26 (1) the employer has violated this subchapter,
27 Subchapter I, or Subchapter K seven or fewer times at the place of

1 business for which the permit is issued in the 48-month period
2 preceding the violation in question;

3 (2) the employer requires its employees to attend a
4 comptroller-approved seller training program;

5 (3) the employees successfully complete the
6 comptroller-approved seller training program; and

7 (4) the employer has not directly or indirectly
8 encouraged the employees to violate the law.

9 (f) The comptroller may adopt rules to implement this
10 section.

11 SECTION 4. Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, is amended
12 by adding Subchapter I to read as follows:

13 SUBCHAPTER I. FLAVORED CIGARETTES, E-CIGARETTES, AND TOBACCO
14 PRODUCTS

15 Sec. 161.095. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

16 (1) "Cigarette" has the meaning assigned by Section
17 154.001, Tax Code.

18 (2) "E-cigarette" has the meaning assigned by Section
19 161.081.

20 (3) "Tobacco product" has the meaning assigned by
21 Section 155.001, Tax Code.

22 Sec. 161.096. SALE OF FLAVORED CIGARETTES, E-CIGARETTES, OR
23 TOBACCO PRODUCTS PROHIBITED. (a) A person may not sell, give, or
24 cause to be sold or given a cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco
25 product with a distinguishable taste or aroma other than the taste
26 or aroma of tobacco, including the aroma or taste of:

27 (1) an alcoholic beverage;

- 1 (2) candy or dessert;
- 2 (3) chocolate, cocoa, or vanilla;
- 3 (4) fruit;
- 4 (5) an herb or spice;
- 5 (6) honey;
- 6 (7) menthol; or
- 7 (8) mint or wintergreen.

8 (b) There is a rebuttable presumption that a cigarette,
9 e-cigarette, or tobacco product has a distinguishable taste or
10 aroma prohibited under Subsection (a) if a person:

11 (1) makes a public statement or claim that the
12 cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product imparts a taste or smell
13 other than the taste or smell of tobacco;

14 (2) uses text or images on the labeling or packaging of
15 the cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product to indicate the
16 product imparts a taste or smell other than the taste or smell of
17 tobacco; or

18 (3) takes other action directed at consumers that
19 would reasonably be expected to cause consumers to believe the
20 cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product imparts a taste or smell
21 other than the taste or smell of tobacco.

22 SECTION 5. The following provisions of the Tax Code are
23 repealed:

- 24 (1) Section [154.1142](#);
- 25 (2) Section [154.1143](#);
- 26 (3) Section [155.0592](#); and
- 27 (4) Section [155.0593](#).

1 SECTION 6. Section 161.0901, Health and Safety Code, as
2 added by this Act, applies only to a violation that occurs on or
3 after the effective date of this Act. A violation that occurs
4 before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in
5 effect on the date the violation occurred, and the former law is
6 continued in effect for that purpose.

7 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.