

By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 2154

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the definition of private place for gambling criminal offense purposes.

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

SECTION 1. Section 47.01(8), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(8) "Private place" means a place to which the public does not have access, and excludes, among other places, streets, highways, restaurants, taverns, nightclubs, commercial gaming enterprises, schools, hospitals, and the common areas of apartment houses, hotels, motels, office buildings, transportation facilities, and shops. For purposes of this subdivision, "commercial gaming enterprise" includes a for-profit poker club, card club, or game room.

SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.