

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 2. ORGANIZATION OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

SUBTITLE D. GENERAL POWERS OF MUNICIPALITIES

CHAPTER 54. ENFORCEMENT OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 54.001. GENERAL ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OF MUNICIPALITIES; PENALTY. (a) The governing body of a municipality may enforce each rule, ordinance, or police regulation of the municipality and may punish a violation of a rule, ordinance, or police regulation.

(b) A fine or penalty for the violation of a rule, ordinance, or police regulation may not exceed \$500 except that:

(1) a fine or penalty for the violation of a rule, ordinance, or police regulation that governs fire safety, zoning, or public health and sanitation, other than the dumping of refuse, may not exceed \$2,000; and

(2) a fine or penalty for the violation of a rule, ordinance, or police regulation that governs the dumping of refuse may not exceed \$4,000.

(c) This section applies to a municipality regardless of any contrary provision in a municipal charter.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 1, Sec. 7(a), 87(e), eff. Aug. 28, 1989.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 680 (H.B. [274](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 54.002. IMPOSITION OF FINE IN TYPE B GENERAL-LAW MUNICIPALITY. (a) The governing body of a Type B general-law

municipality may prescribe the fine for the violation of a municipal bylaw or ordinance.

(b) If a defendant in a Type B general-law municipality demands a jury trial, the fine may be imposed only on the verdict of a jury.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Sec. 54.003. REMISSION OF FINE BY TYPE A GENERAL-LAW MUNICIPALITY. On a two-thirds vote of the members present, the governing body of a Type A general-law municipality may remit a fine or a penalty, or a part of a fine or penalty, imposed or incurred under law or under an ordinance or resolution adopted in accordance with law.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Sec. 54.004. PRESERVATION OF HEALTH, PROPERTY, GOOD GOVERNMENT, AND ORDER IN HOME-RULE MUNICIPALITY. A home-rule municipality may enforce ordinances necessary to protect health, life, and property and to preserve the good government, order, and security of the municipality and its inhabitants.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Sec. 54.005. NOTICES TO CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS. (a) A governmental entity that is required by statute, rule, regulation, or ordinance to send a notice to an owner of real property for the purpose of enforcing a municipal ordinance may include the following statement in the notice: "According to the real property records of _____ County, you own the real property described in this notice. If you no longer own the property, you must execute an affidavit stating that you no longer own the property and stating the name and last known address of the person who acquired the property from you. The affidavit must be delivered in person or by certified mail,

return receipt requested, to this office not later than the 20th day after the date you receive this notice. If you do not send the affidavit, it will be presumed that you own the property described in this notice, even if you do not." The notice must be delivered in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(b) If a governmental entity sends a notice to the owner of the property to which the notice relates, as shown on or after the 10th day before the date notice is sent by the real property records of the county in which the property is located, and the record owner no longer owns the property, the record owner shall execute an affidavit provided with the notice by the governmental entity stating:

(1) that the record owner no longer owns the property; and

(2) the name and last known address of the person who acquired the property from the record owner.

(c) The record owner shall deliver the affidavit in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the governmental entity not later than the 20th day after the date the record owner receives the notice.

(d) If the governmental entity receives an affidavit under Subsection (c), the governmental entity shall send the appropriate notice to the person named in the affidavit as having acquired the property. A notice sent under this subsection must include the statement authorized by Subsection (a).

(e) A governmental entity that receives an affidavit under Subsection (c) shall:

(1) maintain the affidavit on file for at least two years after the date the entity receives the affidavit; and

(2) deliver a copy of the affidavit to the chief appraiser of the appraisal district in which the property is located.

(f) A governmental entity is considered to have provided notice to a property owner if the entity complies with the

statute, rule, regulation, or ordinance under which the notice is sent and if it:

(1) complies with Subsection (a) and does not receive an affidavit from the record owner; or

(2) complies with Subsection (d) and does not receive an affidavit from the person to whom the notice was sent under Subsection (d).

(g) If a governmental entity complies with this section and does not receive an affidavit under Subsection (c), the record owner is presumed to be the owner of the property for all purposes to which the notice relates.

(h) For purposes of this section, "real property" does not include a mineral interest or royalty interest.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 486, Sec. 1, eff. Aug. 26, 1991.

Sec. 54.006. NONSEVERABILITY OF CERTAIN CONSOLIDATED OFFENSES. Section [3.04](#)(a), Penal Code, does not apply to two or more offenses consolidated or joined for trial under Section [3.02](#), Penal Code, if each of the offenses is:

(1) for the violation of an ordinance described by Section 54.012;

(2) punishable by fine only; and

(3) tried in a municipal court, regardless of whether the court is a municipal court of record.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 413, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

SUBCHAPTER B. MUNICIPAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ORDINANCES

Sec. 54.012. CIVIL ACTION. A municipality may bring a civil action for the enforcement of an ordinance:

(1) for the preservation of public safety, relating to the materials or methods used to construct a building or

other structure or improvement, including the foundation, structural elements, electrical wiring or apparatus, plumbing and fixtures, entrances, or exits;

(2) relating to the preservation of public health or to the fire safety of a building or other structure or improvement, including provisions relating to materials, types of construction or design, interior configuration, illumination, warning devices, sprinklers or other fire suppression devices, availability of water supply for extinguishing fires, or location, design, or width of entrances or exits;

(3) for zoning that provides for the use of land or classifies a parcel of land according to the municipality's district classification scheme;

(4) establishing criteria for land subdivision or construction of buildings, including provisions relating to street width and design, lot size, building width or elevation, setback requirements, or utility service specifications or requirements;

(5) implementing civil penalties under this subchapter for conduct classified by statute as a Class C misdemeanor;

(6) relating to dangerously damaged or deteriorated structures or improvements;

(7) relating to conditions caused by accumulations of refuse, vegetation, or other matter that creates breeding and living places for insects and rodents;

(8) relating to the interior configuration, design, illumination, or visibility of business premises exhibiting for viewing by customers while on the premises live or mechanically or electronically displayed entertainment intended to provide sexual stimulation or sexual gratification;

(9) relating to point source effluent limitations or the discharge of a pollutant, other than from a non-point source, into a sewer system, including a sanitary or storm water sewer system, owned or controlled by the municipality;

(10) relating to floodplain control and administration, including an ordinance regulating the placement of a structure, fill, or other materials in a designated floodplain;

(11) relating to animal care and control; or

(12) relating to water conservation measures, including watering restrictions.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.
Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 343, Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 1989; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 753, Sec. 3, eff. June 16, 1991; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 472, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 135 (S.B. [654](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1396 (H.B. [1554](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

Reenacted and amended by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1236 (S.B. [1296](#)), Sec. 12.001, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 54.013. JURISDICTION; VENUE. Jurisdiction and venue of an action under this subchapter are in the district court or the county court at law of the county in which the municipality bringing the action is located.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.