

The S.M.A.R.T. Act

Standardizing Minimum Age Requirements in Texas

Through the eyes and voices of survivors, law enforcement, clinicians, and family members, the S.M.A.R.T. Act aims to curtail the detrimental effects that employment within sexually oriented businesses (SOB's) has on a young person's life, and the secondary detrimental effects they have on society.

The state of Texas has long ago, and on multiple occasions, declared SOB's to be a haven for underage drinking, illegal drug abuse, prostitution, human trafficking, and wide array of other criminal enterprises. The effects of frequent exposure to that harmful environment on a developing brain often result in severe injury, complex trauma, and life-long complications.

To ensure that Texas youth are protected from the SOB work environment, and to prevent the predators who seek to exploit them for profit the S.M.A.R.T Act will:

1. Prohibit individuals younger than 18 years of age from being on the premises of a SOB

- Should a permittee or licensee be found in violation, they will see
 - suspension of license or permit for 30 days for 1st violation.
 - suspension of license or permit for 60 days for 2nd violation, and
 - cancelation of permit or license for the 3rd violation.

2. Prohibit an SOB from employing or entering a contract of employment with an individual younger than 21 years of age.

- If found in violation of this, a permittee or licensee will be fined with a Class A misdemeanor.

The adult entertainment industry in the State of Texas has for decades targeted teens by luring them into SOBs and trapping them into that life.

The current Texas statute facilitates SOB's destruction of young lives by permitting them to recruit and hire employees before they graduate high school.

The S.M.A.R.T. Act protects our vulnerable youth by providing them a few more years of protection to develop the judgment skills necessary to successfully navigate the challenges of potentially life altering decisions

On behalf of Texas youth, abuse survivors, their families, and all those negatively impacted by the detrimental secondary societal effects of SOBs, pass The SMART Act.

HB 1655 Representative Shawn Thierry (21 for employment; 21 on premise)

HB 2285 Representative Tan Parker (21 for employment; 18 on premise)

HB 3520 Representative Todd Hunter (21 for employment; 18 on premise)

SB 315 Senator Joan Huffman (21 for employment; 18 on premise)

SB 766 Senator Joan Huffman (eVerify and 21 for employment; 18 on premise)

