

APPENDIX

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE CHAPTER 341.
MINIMUM STANDARDS OF SANITATION AND
HEALTH PROTECTION MEASURES

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 341.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

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- (1) "Board" means the Texas Board of Health.

- (2) "Department" means the Texas Department of Health.

- (3) "Drinking water" means water distributed by an individual or public or private agency for human consumption, for use in preparing food or beverages, or for use in cleaning a utensil or article used in preparing food or beverages for, or consuming food or beverages by, human beings. The term includes water supplied for human consumption or used by an institution catering to the public.

- (4) "Human excreta" means the urinary and bowel discharges of a human.

- (5) "Person" means an individual, corporation, organization, government, business trust, partnership, association, or any other legal entity.

- (6) "Privy" means a facility for the disposal of human excreta.

- (7) "Sanitary" means a condition of good order and cleanliness that precludes the probability of disease transmission.

- (8) "Septic tank" means a covered water-tight tank designed for sewage treatment.

- (9) "Toilet" means the hopper device for the deposit and discharge of human excreta into a water carriage system.

- (10) "Tourist court" means a camping place or group of two or more mobile or permanent housing units operated as rental property for the use of transient trade or trailer units housing humans.

- (11) "Water supply" means a source or reservoir of water distributed and used for human consumption.

- (12) "Water supply system operator" means a person who:

(A) is trained in the purification or distribution of a public water supply;

(B) has a practical working knowledge of the chemistry and bacteriology essential to the practical mechanics of water purification; and

(C) is capable of conducting and maintaining the purification processes in an efficient manner.

Sec. 341.002. RULES FOR SANITATION AND HEALTH PROTECTION.

The board may:

(1) adopt rules consistent with the purposes of this chapter; and

(2) establish standards and procedures for the management and control of sanitation and for health protection measures.

SUBCHAPTER B. NUISANCES AND GENERAL SANITATION

Sec. 341.011. NUISANCE. Each of the following is a public health nuisance:

(1) a condition or place that is a breeding place for flies and that is in a populous area;

(2) spoiled or diseased meats intended for human consumption;

(3) a restaurant, food market, bakery, other place of business, or vehicle in which food is prepared, packed, stored, transported, sold, or served to the public and that is not constantly maintained in a sanitary condition;

(4) a place, condition, or building controlled or operated by a state or local government agency that is not maintained in a sanitary condition;

(5) sewage, human excreta, wastewater, garbage, or other organic wastes deposited, stored, discharged, or exposed in such a way as to be a potential instrument or medium in disease transmission to a person or between persons;

(6) a vehicle or container that is used to transport garbage, human excreta, or other organic material and that is defective and allows leakage or spilling of contents;

(7) a collection of water in which mosquitoes are breeding in the limits of a municipality or a collection of water that is a breeding area for *Culex quinquefasciatus* mosquitoes that can transmit diseases regardless of the collection's location other than a location or property where activities meeting the definition of Section 11.002(12)(A), Water Code, occur;

(8) a condition that may be proven to injuriously affect the public health

and that may directly or indirectly result from the operations of a bone boiling or fat rendering plant, tallow or soap works, or other similar establishment;

(9) a place or condition harboring rats in a populous area;

(10) the presence of ectoparasites, including bedbugs, lice, and mites, suspected to be disease carriers in a place in which sleeping accommodations are offered to the public;

(11) the maintenance of an open surface privy or an overflowing septic tank so that the contents may be accessible to flies; and

(12) an object, place, or condition that is a possible and probable medium of disease transmission to or between humans.

Sec. 341.012. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE.

(a) A person shall abate a public health nuisance existing in or on a place the person possesses as soon as the person knows that the nuisance exists.

(b) A local health authority who receives information and proof that a public health nuisance exists in the local health authority's jurisdiction shall issue a written notice ordering the abatement of the nuisance to any person responsible for the nuisance. The local health authority shall at the same time send a copy of the notice to the local municipal, county, or district attorney.

(c) The notice must specify the nature of the public health nuisance and designate a reasonable time within which the nuisance must be abated.

(d) If the public health nuisance is not abated within the time specified by the notice, the local health authority shall notify the prosecuting attorney who received the copy of the original notice. The prosecuting attorney:

(1) shall immediately institute proceedings to abate the public health nuisance; or

(2) request the attorney general to institute the proceedings or provide assistance in the prosecution of the proceedings, including participation as an assistant prosecutor when appointed by the prosecuting attorney.

Sec. 341.013. GARBAGE, REFUSE, AND OTHER WASTE.

(a) Premises occupied or used as residences or for business or pleasure shall be kept in a sanitary condition.

(b) Kitchen waste, laundry waste, or sewage may not be allowed to accumulate in, discharge into, or flow into a public place, gutter, street, or highway.

(c) Waste products, offal, polluting material, spent chemicals, liquors, brines, garbage, rubbish, refuse, used tires, or other waste of any kind may not be stored, deposited, or disposed of in a manner that may cause the pollution of the surrounding land, the contamination of groundwater or surface water, or the breeding of insects or rodents.

(d) A person using or permitting the use of land as a public dump shall provide for the covering or incineration of all animal or vegetable matter deposited on the land and for the disposition of other waste materials and rubbish to eliminate the possibility that those materials and rubbish might be a breeding place for insects or rodents.

(e) A person may not permit vacant or abandoned property owned or controlled by the person to be in a condition that will create a public health nuisance or other condition prejudicial to the public health.

Sec. 341.014. DISPOSAL OF HUMAN EXCRETA.

(a) Human excreta in a populous area shall be disposed of through properly managed sewers, treatment tanks, chemical toilets, or privies constructed and maintained in conformity with the department's specifications, or by other methods approved by the department. The disposal system shall be sufficient to prevent the pollution of surface soil, the contamination of a drinking water supply, the infection of flies or cockroaches, or the creation of any other public health nuisance.

(b) Effluent from septic tanks constructed after September 4, 1945, shall be disposed of through:

(1) a subsurface drainage field designed in accordance with good public health engineering practices; or

(2) any other method that does not create a public health nuisance.

(c) A privy may not be constructed within 75 feet of a drinking water well or of a human habitation, other than a habitation to which the privy is appurtenant, without approval by the local health authority or the board. A privy may not be constructed or maintained over an abandoned well or over a stream.

(d) The superstructure and floor surrounding the seat riser and hopper device of a privy constructed and maintained in conformity with the department's specifications shall be kept in a sanitary condition at all times and must have adequate lighting and ventilation.

(e) Material and human excreta removed from a privy vault or from any other place shall be handled in a manner that does not create a public health nuisance. The material and human excreta may not be deposited within 300 feet of a highway unless buried or treated in accordance with the instructions of the local health authority or the board.

Sec. 341.015. SANITATION OF ICE PLANTS.

(a) A person may not go on the platform covering the tanks in which ice is frozen in an ice factory unless the person is an officer, employee, or other person whose duties require that action.

(b) An employee whose services are required on tanks shall be provided with clean shoes or boots that may not be used for any other purpose.

(c) Ice contaminated with sand, dirt, cinders, lint, or other foreign substance may not be sold or offered for sale for human consumption.

(d) Water used in the manufacturing of ice must be from an approved source and be of a safe quality.

(e) An ice plant operator shall provide sanitary handwashing and toilet facilities for the employees of the plant.

Sec. 341.016. SANITATION OF BUSINESSES; OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY.

(a) A person may not use or permit to be used in a business, manufacturing establishment, or other place of employment a process, material, or condition known to have a possible adverse effect on the health of the person's employees unless arrangements have been made to maintain the occupational environment in a manner that such injury will not occur.

(b) An industrial establishment shall be continually maintained in a sanitary condition.

(c) The department shall make available to the state's citizens:

(1) current information concerning minimum allowable concentrations of toxic gases; and

(2) environmental standards that relate to the health and safety of the employees of industrial establishments in this state.

(d) The department shall survey industrial establishments to study industrial health and sanitation issues, including water supplies and distribution, waste disposal, and adverse conditions caused by processes that may cause ill health of industrial workers.

(e) The department shall give each surveyed establishment a summary of the studies and findings under Subsection (d) and make necessary recommendations for the adequate protection of the health, safety, and well-being of the workers.

Sec. 341.017. SANITATION FACILITIES FOR RAILROAD MAINTENANCE-OF-WAY EMPLOYEES.

(a) The board shall adopt reasonable rules to require railroads to provide adequate sanitation facilities for railroad maintenance-of-way employees.

(b) The department may sue in a court of competent jurisdiction to compel compliance with a rule adopted under this section.

Sec. 341.018. RODENT CONTROL. (a) A person who possesses an enclosed structure used or operated for public trade and who knows that the structure is infested with rodents shall:

(1) attempt to exterminate the rodents by poisoning, trapping, fumigating, or other appropriate means; and

(2) provide every practical means of eliminating rats in the structure.

(b) A public building that is constructed after September 4, 1945, must incorporate rat-proofing features.

(c) The board shall promote rodent control programs in rat-infested areas and in localities in which typhus fever has appeared.

SUBCHAPTER C. SANITARY STANDARDS OF DRINKING WATER; PROTECTION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES AND BODIES OF WATER

[Sections Omitted]

SUBCHAPTER D. SANITATION AND SAFETY OF FACILITIES USED BY PUBLIC

[Sections Omitted]

SUBCHAPTER E. AUTHORITY OF HOME-RULE MUNICIPALITIES

Sec. 341.081. AUTHORITY OF HOME-RULE MUNICIPALITIES NOT AFFECTED.

This chapter prescribes the minimum requirements of sanitation and health protection in this state and does not affect a home-rule municipality's authority to enact:

(1) more stringent ordinances in matters relating to this chapter; or

(2) an ordinance under:

- (A) Article XI, Section V, of the Texas Constitution;
- (B) Article 1175, Revised Statutes; or
- (C) Section 51.072, Local Government Code.

Sec. 341.082. APPOINTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER IN CERTAIN HOME-RULE MUNICIPALITIES.

- (a) In a home-rule municipality, an environmental health officer may be appointed to enforce this chapter.
- (b) The environmental health officer must be a registered professional engineer. The officer must file a copy of the officer's oath and appointment with the board.
- (c) The environmental health officer shall assist the board in enforcing this chapter and is subject to:
 - (1) the authority of the board; and
 - (2) removal from office in the same manner as a municipal health authority.

SUBCHAPTER F. PENALTIES

Sec. 341.091. CRIMINAL PENALTY.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person violates this chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter. A person commits an offense if the person violates a permitting or inspection requirement imposed under Section 341.064(n) or a closure order issued under Section 341.064(o). An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$200.
- (b) If it is shown on the trial of the defendant that the defendant has been convicted of an offense under this chapter within a year before the date on which the offense being tried occurred, the defendant shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$1,000, confinement in jail for not more than 30 days, or both.
- (c) Each day of a continuing violation is a separate offense.

Sec. 341.092. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.

- (a) A person may not cause, suffer, allow, or permit a violation of this chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter.

(b) A person who violates this chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter shall be assessed a civil penalty. A person who violates a permitting or inspection requirement imposed under Section 341.064(n) or a closure order issued under Section 341.064(o) shall be assessed a civil penalty. A civil penalty under this section may not be less than \$10 or more than \$200 for each violation and for each day of a continuing violation.

(c) If it is shown on the trial of the defendant that the defendant has previously violated this section, the defendant shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less than \$10 or more than \$1,000 for each violation and for each day of a continuing violation.

(d) If it appears that a person has violated, is violating, or is threatening to violate this chapter, a rule adopted under this chapter, a permitting or inspection requirement imposed under Section 341.064(n), or a closure order issued under Section 341.064(o), the department, a county, a municipality, or the attorney general on request by the district attorney, criminal district attorney, county attorney, or, with the approval of the governing body of the municipality, the attorney for the municipality may institute a civil suit in a district court for:

- (1) injunctive relief to restrain the person from continuing the violation or threat of violation;
- (2) the assessment and recovery of a civil penalty; or
- (3) both injunctive relief and a civil penalty.

(e) The department is a necessary and indispensable party in a suit brought by a county or municipality under this section.

(f) On the department's request, or as otherwise provided by this chapter, the attorney general shall institute and conduct a suit in the name of the state for injunctive relief, to recover a civil penalty, or for both injunctive relief and civil penalty.

(g) The suit may be brought in Travis County, in the county in which the defendant resides, or in the county in which the violation or threat of violation occurs.

(h) In a suit under this section to enjoin a violation or threat of violation of this chapter, a rule adopted under this chapter, a permitting or inspection requirement imposed under Section 341.064(n), or a closure order issued under Section 341.064(o), the court shall grant the state, county, or municipality, without bond or other undertaking, any injunction that the facts may warrant, including temporary restraining orders, temporary injunctions after notice and hearing, and permanent injunctions.

(i) Civil penalties recovered in a suit brought under this section by a county

or municipality through its own attorney shall be equally divided between:

- (1) the state; and
- (2) the county or municipality that first brought the suit.

(j) The state is entitled to civil penalties recovered in a suit instituted by the attorney general.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
CHAPTER 343. ABATEMENT OF PUBLIC NUISANCES

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 343.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

- (1) "Abate" means to eliminate or remedy:
 - (A) by removal, repair, rehabilitation, or demolition;
 - (B) in the case of a nuisance under Section 343.011(c)(1), (9), or (10), by prohibition or control of access; and
 - (C) in the case of a nuisance under Section 343.011(c)(12), by removal, remediation, storage, transportation, disposal, or other means of waste management authorized by Chapter 361.
- (2) "Building" means a structure built for the support, shelter, or enclosure of a person, animal, chattel, machine, equipment, or other moveable property.
- (3) "Garbage" means decayable waste from a public or private establishment or restaurant. The term includes vegetable, animal, and fish offal and animal and fish carcasses, but does not include sewage, body waste, or an industrial by-product.
- (4) "Neighborhood" means:
 - (A) a platted subdivision; or
 - (B) property contiguous to and within 300 feet of a platted subdivision.
- (5) "Platted subdivision" means a subdivision that has its approved or unapproved plat recorded with the county clerk of the county in which the subdivision is located.
- (6) "Premises" means all privately owned property, including vacant land or a building designed or used for residential, commercial, business, in-

dustrial, or religious purposes. The term includes a yard, ground, walk, driveway, fence, porch, steps, or other structure appurtenant to the property.

(7) "Public street" means the entire width between property lines of a road, street, way, thoroughfare, or bridge if any part of the road, street, way, thoroughfare, or bridge is open to the public for vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

(8) "Receptacle" means a container that is composed of durable material and designed to prevent the discharge of its contents and to make its contents inaccessible to animals, vermin, or other pests.

(9) "Refuse" means garbage, rubbish, paper, and other decayable and nondecayable waste, including vegetable matter and animal and fish carcasses.

(10) "Rubbish" means nondecayable waste from a public or private establishment or residence.

(11) "Weeds" means all rank and uncultivated vegetable growth or matter that:

(A) has grown to more than 36 inches in height; or

(B) may create an unsanitary condition or become a harborage for rodents, vermin, or other disease-carrying pests, regardless of the height of the weeds.

(12) "Flea market" means an outdoor or indoor market, conducted on non-residential premises, for selling secondhand articles or antiques, unless conducted by a religious, educational, fraternal, or charitable organization.

Sec. 343.003. EFFECT OF CHAPTER ON OTHER STATE LAW.

This chapter does not affect a right, remedy, or penalty under other state law.

SUBCHAPTER B. PUBLIC NUISANCE PROHIBITED

Sec. 343.011. PUBLIC NUISANCE.

(a) This section applies only to the unincorporated area of a county.

(b) A person may not cause, permit, or allow a public nuisance under this section.

(c) A public nuisance is:

(1) keeping, storing, or accumulating refuse on premises in a neighborhood unless the refuse is entirely contained in a closed receptacle;

- (2) keeping, storing, or accumulating rubbish, including newspapers, abandoned vehicles, refrigerators, stoves, furniture, tires, and cans, on premises in a neighborhood or within 300 feet of a public street for 10 days or more, unless the rubbish or object is completely enclosed in a building or is not visible from a public street;
- (3) maintaining premises in a manner that creates an unsanitary condition likely to attract or harbor mosquitoes, rodents, vermin, or disease-carrying pests;
- (4) allowing weeds to grow on premises in a neighborhood if the weeds are located within 300 feet of another residence or commercial establishment;
- (5) maintaining a building in a manner that is structurally unsafe or constitutes a hazard to safety, health, or public welfare because of inadequate maintenance, unsanitary conditions, dilapidation, obsolescence, disaster, damage, or abandonment or because it constitutes a fire hazard;
- (6) maintaining on abandoned and unoccupied property in a neighborhood a swimming pool that is not protected with:
 - (A) a fence that is at least four feet high and that has a latched and locked gate; and
 - (B) a cover over the entire swimming pool that cannot be removed by a child;
- (7) maintaining on any property in a neighborhood in a county with a population of more than 1.1 million a swimming pool that is not protected with:
 - (A) a fence that is at least four feet high and that has a latched gate that cannot be opened by a child; or
 - (B) a cover over the entire swimming pool that cannot be removed by a child;
- (8) maintaining a flea market in a manner that constitutes a fire hazard;
- (9) discarding refuse or creating a hazardous visual obstruction on:
 - (A) county-owned land; or
 - (B) land or easements owned or held by a special district that has the commissioners court of the county as its governing body;

(10) discarding refuse on the smaller of:

- (A) the area that spans 20 feet on each side of a utility line; or
- (B) the actual span of the utility easement; or

(11) filling or blocking a drainage easement, failing to maintain a drainage easement, maintaining a drainage easement in a manner that allows the easement to be clogged with debris, sediment, or vegetation, or violating an agreement with the county to improve or maintain a drainage easement.

(12) discarding refuse on property that is not authorized for that activity.

(d) This section does not apply to:

(1) a site or facility that is:

- (A) permitted and regulated by a state agency for the activity described by Subsection (c); or
- (B) licensed or permitted under Chapter 361 for the activity described by Subsection (c); or

(2) agricultural land.

(e) In Subsection (d), "agricultural land" means land that qualifies for tax appraisal under Subchapter C or D, Chapter 23, Tax Code.

Sec. 343.0111. SPECIAL EXCEPTION OR VARIANCE TO PUBLIC NUISANCE CLASSIFICATION.

(a) The commissioners court of a county by order may:

(1) describe the circumstances in which a special exception to the application of Section 343.011 is available to a person and may grant the special exception in a specific case if the commissioners court finds that the specific case fits within the special exception, that the grant of the exception promotes justice, that the grant of the exception is not contrary to the public interest, and that the grant of the exception is consistent with the general purpose of Section 343.011; and

(2) authorize in a specific case not covered by a special exception a variance from the terms of Section 343.011 if the commissioners court makes the same findings in connection with the specific case that it makes in connection with a special exception under Subdivision (1) and finds that due to special conditions a literal enforcement of Section 343.011 would result in an unnecessary hardship.

(b) The commissioners court shall keep a record of its proceedings under this section and must include in the record a showing of the reasons for each decision made under this section.

Sec. 343.012. CRIMINAL PENALTY.

(a) A person commits an offense if:

(1) the person violates Section 343.011(b); and

(2) the nuisance remains unabated after the 30th day after the date on which the person receives notice from a county official, agent, or employee to abate the nuisance.

(b) An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$200.

(c) If it is shown on the trial of the defendant that the defendant has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the defendant is punishable by a fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$1,000, confinement in jail for not more than six months, or both.

(d) Each day a violation occurs is a separate offense.

(e) The court shall order abatement of the nuisance if the defendant is convicted of an offense under this section.

Sec. 343.013. INJUNCTION.

(a) A county or district court may by injunction prevent, restrain, abate, or otherwise remedy a violation of this chapter in the unincorporated area of the county.

(b) A county or a person affected or to be affected by a violation under this chapter, including a property owner, resident of a neighborhood, or organization of property owners or residents of a neighborhood, may bring suit under Subsection (a). If the court grants the injunction, the court may award the plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.

(c) A county may bring suit under this section to prohibit or control access to the premises to prevent a continued or future violation of Section 343.011(c)(1), (6), (9), or (10). The court may grant relief under this subsection only if the county demonstrates that:

(1) the person responsible for causing the public nuisance has not responded sufficiently to previous attempts to abate a nuisance on the premises, if the relief sought prohibits or controls access of a person other than the owner; or

(2) the owner of the premises knew about the nuisance and has not responded sufficiently to previous attempts to abate a nuisance on the premises, if the relief sought controls access of the owner.

(d) In granting relief under Subsection (c), the court:

(1) may not, in a suit brought under Section 343.011(c)(10), prohibit or control access by the owner or operator of a utility line or utility easement to that utility line or utility easement; and

(2) may not prohibit the owner of the premises from accessing the property but may prohibit a continued or future violation.

SUBCHAPTER C. COUNTY AUTHORITY RELATING TO NUISANCE

Sec. 343.021. AUTHORITY TO ABATE NUISANCE.

If a county adopts abatement procedures that are consistent with the general purpose of this chapter and that conform to this chapter, the county may abate a nuisance under this chapter:

(1) by demolition or removal;

(2) in the case of a nuisance under Section 343.011(c)(1), (9), or (10), by prohibiting or controlling access to the premises;

(3) in the case of a nuisance under Section 343.011(c)(6), by:

(A) prohibiting or controlling access to the premises and installing a cover that cannot be opened by a child over the entire swimming pool; or

(B) draining and filling the swimming pool; or

(4) in the case of a nuisance under Section 343.011(c)(12), by removal, remediation, storage, transportation, disposal, or other means of waste management authorized under Chapter 361.

Sec. 343.022. ABATEMENT PROCEDURES.

(a) The abatement procedures adopted by the commissioners court must be administered by a regularly salaried, full-time county employee. A person authorized by the person administering the abatement program may administer:

(1) the prohibition or control of access to the premises to prevent a violation of Section 343.011(c)(1), (6), (9), or (10);

(2) the removal or demolition of the nuisance; and

- (3) the abatement of a nuisance described by Section 343.011(c)(12).
- (b) The abatement procedures must require that written notice be given to:
- (1) the owner, lessee, occupant, agent, or person in charge of the premises; and
 - (2) the person responsible for causing a public nuisance on the premises when:
 - (A) that person is not the owner, lessee, occupant, agent, or person in charge of the premises; and
 - (B) the person responsible can be identified.
- (c) The notice must state:
- (1) the specific condition that constitutes a nuisance;
 - (2) that the person receiving notice shall abate the nuisance before the:
 - (A) 31st day after the date on which the notice is served, if the person has not previously received a notice regarding a nuisance on the premises; or
 - (B) 10th business day after the date on which the notice is served, if the person has previously received a notice regarding a nuisance on the premises;
 - (3) that failure to abate the nuisance may result in:
 - (A) abatement by the county;
 - (B) assessment of costs to the person responsible for causing the nuisance when that person can be identified; and
 - (C) a lien against the property on which the nuisance exists, if the person responsible for causing the nuisance has an interest in the property;
 - (4) that the county may prohibit or control access to the premises to prevent a continued or future nuisance described by Section 343.011(c)(1), (6), (9), or (10); and
 - (5) that the person receiving notice is entitled to submit a written request for a hearing before the:
 - (A) 31st day after the date on which the notice is served, if the

person has not previously received a notice regarding a nuisance on the premises; or

(B) 10th business day after the date on which the notice is served, if the person has previously received a notice regarding a nuisance on the premises.

(d) The notice must be given:

(1) by service in person or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested; or

(2) if personal service cannot be obtained or the address of the person to be notified is unknown, by posting a copy of the notice on the premises on which the nuisance exists and by publishing the notice in a newspaper with general circulation in the county two times within 10 consecutive days.

(e) Except as provided in Subsection (f), the abatement procedures must require a hearing before the county abates the nuisance if a hearing is requested. The hearing may be conducted before the commissioners court or any board, commission, or official designated by the commissioners court. The commissioners court may designate a board, commission, or official to conduct each hearing.

(f) A county may, before conducting a hearing, abate a nuisance under Section 343.011(c)(6) by prohibiting or controlling access to the premises on which the nuisance is located and installing a cover that cannot be opened by a child over the entire swimming pool, but only if the county conducts a hearing otherwise in accordance with Subsection (e) after the nuisance is abated.

Sec. 343.023. ASSESSMENT OF COSTS; LIEN.

(a) A county may:

(1) assess:

(A) the cost of abating the nuisance, including management, remediation, storage, transportation, and disposal costs, and damages and other expenses incurred by the county;

(B) the cost of legal notification by publication; and

(C) an administrative fee of not more than \$100 on the person receiving notice under Section 343.022; or

(2) by resolution or order, assess:

- (A) the cost of abating the nuisance;
- (B) the cost of legal notification by publication; and
- (C) an administrative fee of not more than \$100 against the property on which the nuisance exists.

(b) The county may not make an assessment against property unless the owner or owner's agent receives notice of the nuisance in accordance with Section 343.022.

(c) To obtain a lien against the property to secure an assessment, the commissioners court of the county must file a notice that contains a statement of costs, a legal description of the property sufficient to identify the property, and the name of the property owner, if known, with the county clerk of the county in which the property is located.

(d) The county's lien to secure an assessment attaches when the notice of lien is filed and is inferior to a previously recorded bona fide mortgage lien attached to the real property to which the county's lien attaches, if the mortgage was filed for record in the office of the county clerk of the county in which the real property is located before the date on which the county files the notice of lien with the county clerk.

(e) The county is entitled to accrued interest beginning on the 31st day after the date of the assessment against the property at the rate of 10 percent a year.

(f) The statement of costs or a certified copy of the statement of costs is prima facie proof of the costs incurred to abate the nuisance.

Sec. 343.0235. USE OF COUNTY FUNDS. A county is entitled to use any money available under other law for a cleanup or remediation of private property to abate a nuisance described by Section 343.011(c)(1), (9), or (10).

Sec. 343.024. AUTHORITY TO ENTER PREMISES.

a) A county official, agent, or employee charged with the enforcement of health, environmental, safety, or fire laws may enter any premises in the unincorporated area of the county at a reasonable time to inspect, investigate, or abate a nuisance or to enforce this chapter.

(b) Before entering the premises, the official, agent, or employee must exhibit proper identification to the occupant, manager, or other appropriate person.

Sec. 343.025. ENFORCEMENT. A court of competent jurisdiction in the county may issue any order necessary to enforce this chapter.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
CHAPTER 365. LITTER

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 365.001. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the Texas Litter Abatement Act.

Sec. 365.002. WATER POLLUTION CONTROLLED BY WATER CODE. The pollution of water in the state is controlled by Chapter 26, Water Code, and other applicable law.

Sec. 365.003. LITTER ON BEACHES CONTROLLED BY NATURAL RESOURCES CODE. The regulation of litter on public beaches is controlled by Subchapters C and D, Chapter 61, Natural Resources Code.

Sec. 365.004. DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE, REFUSE, AND SEWAGE IN CERTAIN AREAS UNDER CONTROL OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT. The Parks and Wildlife Commission may adopt rules to govern the disposal of garbage, refuse, and sewage in state parks, public water in state parks, historic sites, scientific areas, and forts under the control of the Parks and Wildlife Department.

Sec. 365.005. VENUE AND RECOVERY OF COSTS.

(a) Venue for the prosecution of a criminal offense under Subchapter B or Section 365.032 or 365.033 or for a suit for injunctive relief under any of those provisions is in the county in which the defendant resides, in the county in which the offense or the violation occurs, or in Travis County.

(b) If the attorney general or a local government brings a suit for injunctive relief under Subchapter B or Section 365.032 or 365.033, a prevailing party may recover its reasonable attorney fees, court costs, and reasonable investigative costs incurred in relation to the proceeding.

SUBCHAPTER B. CERTAIN ACTIONS PROHIBITED

Sec. 365.011. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Approved solid waste site" means:

(A) a solid waste site permitted or registered by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission;

(B) a solid waste site licensed by a county under Chapter 361; or

(C) a designated collection area for ultimate disposal at a permitted or licensed municipal solid waste site.

(2) "Boat" means a vehicle, including a barge, airboat, motorboat, or sail-

boat, used for transportation on water.

(3) "Commercial purpose" means the purpose of economic gain.

(4) "Commercial vehicle" means a vehicle that is operated by a person for a commercial purpose or that is owned by a business or commercial enterprise.

(5) "Dispose" and "dump" mean to discharge, deposit, inject, spill, leak, or place litter on or into land or water.

(6) "Litter" means:

(A) decayable waste from a public or private establishment, residence, or restaurant, including animal and vegetable waste material from a market or storage facility handling or storing produce or other food products, or the handling, preparation, cooking, or consumption of food, but not including sewage, body wastes, or industrial by-products; or

(B) nondecayable solid waste, except ashes, that consists of:

(i) combustible waste material, including paper, rags, cartons, wood, excelsior, furniture, rubber, plastics, yard trimmings, leaves, or similar materials;

(ii) noncombustible waste material, including glass, crockery, tin or aluminum cans, metal furniture, and similar materials that do not burn at ordinary incinerator temperatures of 1800 degrees Fahrenheit or less; and

(iii) discarded or worn-out manufactured materials and machinery, including motor vehicles and parts of motor vehicles, tires, aircraft, farm implements, building or construction materials, appliances, and scrap metal.

(7) "Motor vehicle" has the meaning assigned by Section 541.201, Transportation Code.

(8) "Public highway" means the entire width between property lines of a road, street, way, thoroughfare, bridge, public beach, or park in this state, not privately owned or controlled, if any part of the road, street, way, thoroughfare, bridge, public beach, or park:

(A) is opened to the public for vehicular traffic;

(B) is used as a public recreational area; or

(C) is under the state's legislative jurisdiction through its police power.

(9) "Solid waste" has the meaning assigned by Section 361.003.

Sec. 365.012. ILLEGAL DUMPING; CRIMINAL PENALTIES.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person disposes or allows or permits the disposal of litter or other solid waste at a place that is not an approved solid waste site, including a place on or within 300 feet of a public highway, on a right-of-way, on other public or private property, or into inland or coastal water of the state.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person receives litter or other solid waste for disposal at a place that is not an approved solid waste site, regardless of whether the litter or other solid waste or the land on which the litter or other solid waste is disposed is owned or controlled by the person.

(c) A person commits an offense if the person transports litter or other solid waste to a place that is not an approved solid waste site for disposal at the site.

(d) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor if the litter or other solid waste to which the offense applies weighs five pounds or less or has a volume of five gallons or less.

(e) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor if the litter or other solid waste to which the offense applies weighs more than five pounds but less than 500 pounds or has a volume of more than five gallons but less than 100 cubic feet.

(f) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor if:

(1) the litter or other solid waste to which the offense applies weighs 500 pounds or more but less than 1,000 pounds or has a volume of 100 cubic feet or more but less than 200 cubic feet; or

(2) the litter or other solid waste is disposed for a commercial purpose and weighs more than five pounds but less than 200 pounds or has a volume of more than five gallons but less than 200 cubic feet.

(g) An offense under this section is a state jail felony if the litter or solid waste to which the offense applies:

(1) weighs 1,000 pounds or more or has a volume of 200 cubic feet or more;

(2) is disposed of for a commercial purpose and weighs 200 pounds or more or has a volume of 200 cubic feet or more; or

(3) is contained in a closed barrel or drum.

(h) If it is shown on the trial of the defendant for an offense under this section that the defendant has previously been convicted of an offense under this section, the punishment for the offense is increased to the punishment for the next highest category.

(i) On conviction for an offense under this section, the court shall provide to the defendant written notice that a subsequent conviction for an offense under this section may result in the forfeiture under Chapter 59, Code of Criminal Procedure, of the vehicle used by the defendant in committing the offense.

(j) The offenses prescribed by this section include the unauthorized disposal of litter or other solid waste in a dumpster or similar receptacle.

(k) This section does not apply to the temporary storage for future disposal of litter or other solid waste by a person on land owned by that person, or by that person's agent. The commission by rule shall regulate temporary storage for future disposal of litter or other solid waste by a person on land owned by the person or the person's agent.

(l) This section does not apply to an individual's disposal of litter or other solid waste if:

(1) the litter or waste is generated on land the individual owns;

(2) the litter or waste is not generated as a result of an activity related to a commercial purpose;

(3) the disposal occurs on land the individual owns; and

(4) the disposal is not for a commercial purpose.

(m) A municipality or county may offer a reward of \$50 for reporting a violation of this section that results in a prosecution under this section.

(n) An offense under this section may be prosecuted without alleging or proving any culpable mental state, unless the offense is a state jail felony.

(o) For purposes of a prosecution under Subsection (g), a generator creates a rebuttable presumption of lack of culpable mental state if the generator of the solid waste to be disposed of secures, prior to the hauler's receipt of the solid waste, a signed statement from the hauler that the solid waste will be disposed of legally. The statement shall include the hauler's valid Texas driver's license number.

Sec. 365.013. RULES AND STANDARDS; CRIMINAL PENALTY.

(a) The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission shall adopt rules and standards regarding processing and treating litter disposed in

violation of this subchapter.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person violates a rule adopted under this section.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 365.014. APPLICATION OF SUBCHAPTER; DEFENSES; PRESUMPTIONS.

(a) This subchapter does not apply to farmers:

(1) in handling anything necessary to grow, handle, and care for livestock; or

(2) in erecting, operating, and maintaining improvements necessary to handle, thresh, and prepare agricultural products or for conservation projects.

(b) A person who dumps more than five pounds or 13 gallons of litter or other solid waste from a commercial vehicle in violation of this subchapter is presumed to be dumping the litter or other solid waste for a commercial purpose.

(c) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under Section 365.012 that:

(1) the storage, processing, or disposal took place on land owned or leased by the defendant;

(2) the defendant received the litter or other solid waste from another person;

(3) the defendant, after exercising due diligence, did not know and reasonably could not have known that litter or other solid waste was involved; and

(4) the defendant did not receive, directly or indirectly, compensation for the receipt, storage, processing, or treatment.

Sec. 365.015. INJUNCTION; VENUE; RECOVERY OF COSTS.

(a) A district attorney, a county attorney, or the attorney general may bring a civil suit for an injunction to prevent or restrain a violation of this subchapter. A person affected or to be affected by a violation is entitled to seek injunctive relief to enjoin the violation.

(b) Venue for a prosecution of a criminal offense under this subchapter or for a civil suit for injunctive relief under this subchapter is in the county in which the defendant resides, the county in which the offense or violation

occurred, or in Travis County.

(c) In a suit for relief under this section, the prevailing party may recover its reasonable attorney fees, court costs, and reasonable investigative costs incurred in relation to the proceeding.

Sec. 365.016. DISPOSAL OF LITTER IN A CAVE; CRIMINAL PENALTY.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person disposes litter, a dead animal, sewage, or any chemical in a cave.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless:

(1) it is shown on the trial of the defendant that the defendant previously has been convicted once of an offense under this section, in which event the offense is a Class A misdemeanor; or

(2) it is shown on the trial of the defendant that the defendant previously has been convicted two or more times of an offense under this section, in which event the offense is a felony of the third degree.

Sec. 365.017. REGULATION OF LITTER IN CERTAIN COUNTIES.

(a) The commissioners court of a county may adopt regulations to control the disposal of litter and the removal of illegally dumped litter from private property in unincorporated areas of that county. The commissioners court may not adopt regulations under this section concerning the disposal of recyclable materials as defined in Chapter 361 of the Health and Safety Code.

(b) Prior to the adoption of regulations the commissioners court of a county must find that the proposed regulations are necessary to promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of that county.

(c) The definitions of Section 365.011 apply in this Act. "Illegally dumped litter" means litter dumped anywhere other than in an approved solid waste site. "Litter" has the meaning assigned by Section 365.011, except that the term does not include equipment used for agricultural purposes.

(d) The regulations adopted by the commissioners court may require the record property owners to pay for the cost of removal after the commissioners court has given the record property owner 30 days written notice to remove the illegally dumped litter.

(e) Regulations adopted under this section are in addition to any other law regarding this issue and the stricter law shall apply.

(f) In addition to any other remedy provided by law, a district attorney, a county attorney, or the attorney general may bring a civil suit to enjoin violation of regulations adopted under this section and to recover the costs of

removal of illegally dumped litter. In such a suit the prevailing party may recover its reasonable attorney fees, court fees, and reasonable investigative costs incurred in relation to that proceeding.

SUBCHAPTER C. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 365.031. LITTER, GARBAGE, REFUSE, AND RUBBISH IN LAKE SABINE. The governing body of Port Arthur by ordinance may prohibit the depositing or placing of litter, garbage, refuse, or rubbish into or on the waters of Lake Sabine within the municipal limits.

Sec. 365.032. THROWING CERTAIN SUBSTANCES IN OR NEAR LAKE LAVON; CRIMINAL PENALTY.

(a) The definitions provided by Section 365.011 apply to this section.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person throws, leaves, or causes to be thrown or left wastepaper, glass, metal, a tin can, refuse, garbage, waste, discarded or soiled personal property, or any other noxious or poisonous substance in the water of or near Lake Lavon in Collin County if the substance is detrimental to fish or to a person fishing in Lake Lavon.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the defendant that the defendant has previously been convicted of an offense under this section, in which event the offense is a Class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 365.033. DISCARDING REFUSE IN CERTAIN COUNTY PARKS; CRIMINAL PENALTY.

(a) The definitions provided by Section 365.011 apply to this section.

(b) In this section, "beach" means an area in which the public has acquired a right of use or an easement and that borders on the seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico or extends from the line of mean low tide to the line of vegetation bordering on the Gulf of Mexico.

(c) This section applies only to a county park located in a county that has the Gulf of Mexico as one boundary, but does not apply to a beach located in that park.

(d) A person commits an offense if the person discards in a county park any junk, garbage, rubbish, or other refuse in a place that is not an officially designated refuse container or disposal unit.

(e) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the defendant that the defendant has previously been convicted of an offense under this section, in which event the offense is a Class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 365.034. COUNTY REGULATION OF LITTER NEAR PUBLIC HIGHWAY; CRIMINAL PENALTY.

(a) The commissioners court of a county may:

(1) by order prohibit the accumulation of litter for more than 30 days on a person's property within 50 feet of a public highway in the county;

(2) provide for the removal and disposition of litter accumulated near a public highway in violation of an order adopted under this section; and

(3) provide for the assessment against a person who owns the property from which litter is removed under Subdivision (2) of the costs incurred by the county in removing and disposing of the litter.

(b) Before the commissioners court takes any action to remove or dispose of litter under this section, the court shall send a notice by certified mail to the record owners of the property on which the litter is accumulated in violation of an order adopted under this section. The court may not remove or dispose of the litter or assess the costs of the removal or disposition against a property owner before the 30th day after the date the notice is sent under this subsection.

(c) If a person assessed costs under this section does not pay the costs within 60 days after the date of assessment:

(1) a lien in favor of the county attaches to the property from which the litter was removed to secure the payment of the costs and interest accruing at an annual rate of 10 percent on any unpaid part of the costs; and

(2) the commissioners court shall file a record of the lien in the office of the county clerk.

(d) The violation of an order adopted under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

(e) In this section:

(1) "Litter" has the meaning assigned by Section 365.011 except that the term does not include equipment used for agricultural purposes.

(2) "Public highway" has the meaning assigned by Section 365.011.

WATER CODE
CHAPTER 7. ENFORCEMENT

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 7.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

- (1) "Commission" means the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.
- (2) "Permit" includes a license, certificate, registration, approval, or other form of authorization. This definition does not apply to Subchapter G.

Sec. 7.002. ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY. The commission may initiate an action under this chapter to enforce provisions of this code and the Health and Safety Code within the commission's jurisdiction as provided by Section 5.013 of this code and rules adopted under those provisions. The commission or the executive director may institute legal proceedings to compel compliance with the relevant provisions of this code and the Health and Safety Code and rules, orders, permits, or other decisions of the commission.

Sec. 7.0025. INITIATION OF ENFORCEMENT ACTION USING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL.

- (a) The commission may initiate an enforcement action on a matter under its jurisdiction under this code or the Health and Safety Code based on information it receives from a private individual if that information, in the commission's judgment, is of sufficient value and credibility to warrant the initiation of an enforcement action.
- (b) The executive director or the executive director's designated representative may evaluate the value and credibility of information received from a private individual and the merits of any proposed enforcement action based on that information.
- (c) The commission by rule may adopt criteria for the executive director to use in evaluating the value and credibility of information received from a private individual and for use of that information in an enforcement action.
- (d) A private individual who submits information on which the commission relies for all or part of an enforcement case may be called to testify in the enforcement proceedings and is subject to all sanctions under law for knowingly falsifying evidence. If the commission relies on the information submitted by a private individual to prove an enforcement case, any physical or sampling data must have been collected or gathered in accordance with commission protocols.

Sec. 7.00251. INITIATION OF CERTAIN CLEAN AIR ACT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS USING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY A PERSON. If the commis-

sion determines that there are multiple violations based on information it receives as required by Title V of the federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. Section 7661 et seq.) from a person, as defined in Section 382.003, Health and Safety Code, only those that require initiation of formal enforcement will be included in any proposed enforcement action. For all other violations that do not require initiation of formal enforcement, the commission may not include in the enforcement action the following:

- (1) violations that are not repeat violations due to the same root cause from two consecutive investigations within the most recent five-year period; or
- (2) violations that have been corrected within the time frame specified by the commission or for which the facility has not had the time specified by the commission to correct the violations.

Sec. 7.0026. SUSPENSION OF ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST CERTAIN REGIONAL WATER, SEWER, OR SOLID WASTE SERVICES. If a water supply, sewer, wastewater treatment, or solid waste disposal service operated by or for a municipality or county is being integrated into a regional water supply, sewer, wastewater treatment, or solid waste disposal service, the commission may enter into a compliance agreement with the regional service under which the commission will not initiate an enforcement action against the regional service for existing or anticipated violations resulting from the operation by the regional service of the service being integrated. A compliance agreement under this section must include provisions necessary to bring the service being integrated into compliance.

Sec. 7.003. ENFORCEMENT REPORT.

- (a) The commission shall report at least once each month on enforcement actions taken by the commission or others and the resolution of those actions.
- (b) The report shall be an item for commission discussion at a meeting of the commission for which public notice is given.
- (c) If an enforcement action involves a suit filed for injunctive relief or civil penalties, or both, the report shall state the actual or projected time for resolution of the suit. A copy of the report and of the minutes of the meeting reflecting commission action relating to the report shall be filed with the governor and the attorney general.

Sec. 7.004. REMEDIES CUMULATIVE. The remedies under this chapter are cumulative of all other remedies. Nothing in this chapter affects the right of a private corporation or individual to pursue any available common law remedy to abate a condition of pollution or other nuisance, to recover damages to enforce a right, or to prevent or seek redress or compensation for the violation of a right or otherwise redress an injury.

Sec. 7.005. EFFECT ON OTHER LAW. This chapter does not exempt a person from complying with or being subject to other law.

SUBCHAPTER B. CORRECTIVE ACTION AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Sec. 7.031. CORRECTIVE ACTION RELATING TO HAZARDOUS WASTE.

(a) The commission shall require corrective action for a release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents from a solid waste management unit at a solid waste processing, storage, or disposal facility that is required to obtain a permit for the management of hazardous waste and whose permit is issued after November 8, 1984, regardless of when the waste is placed in the unit.

(b) The commission shall establish schedules for compliance for the corrective action if the corrective action cannot be completed before permit issuance and shall require assurances of financial responsibility for completing the corrective action.

(c) If the commission determines that there is or has been a release of hazardous waste into the environment from a facility required to obtain a permit in accordance with an approved state program under Section 3006 of the federal Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended (42 U.S.C. Section 6901 et seq.), the commission may:

(1) issue an order requiring corrective action or other response measures considered necessary to protect human health or the environment; or

(2) institute a civil action under Subchapter D.

(d) An order issued under this section:

(1) may include a suspension or revocation of authorization to operate;

(2) must state with reasonable specificity the nature of the required corrective action or other response measure; and

(3) must specify a time for compliance.

(e) If a person named in the order does not comply with the order, the commission may assess an administrative penalty or seek a civil penalty in accordance with this chapter.

(f) Nothing in this section limits the authority of the commission, consistent with federal law, to issue an order for the closure, post-closure care, or other remediation of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents

from a solid waste management unit at a solid waste processing, storage, or disposal facility.

Sec. 7.032. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.

(a) The executive director may enforce a commission rule or a provision of a permit issued by the commission by injunction or other appropriate remedy.

(b) If it appears that a violation or threat of violation of a statute within the commission's jurisdiction or a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under such a statute has occurred or is about to occur, the executive director may have a suit instituted in district court for injunctive relief to restrain the violation or threat of violation.

(c) The suit may be brought in the county in which the defendant resides or in the county in which the violation or threat of violation occurs.

(d) In a suit brought under this section to enjoin a violation or threat of violation described by Subsection (b), the court may grant the commission, without bond or other undertaking, any prohibitory or mandatory injunction the facts may warrant, including a temporary restraining order and, after notice and hearing, a temporary injunction or permanent injunction.

(e) On request of the executive director, the attorney general or the prosecuting attorney in a county in which the violation occurs shall initiate a suit in the name of the state for injunctive relief. The suit may be brought independently of or in conjunction with a suit under Subchapter D.

Sec. 7.033. RECOVERY OF SECURITY FOR CHAPTER 401, HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, VIOLATION. The commission shall seek reimbursement, either by a commission order or by a suit filed under Subchapter D by the attorney general at the commission's request, of security from the radiation and perpetual care account used by the commission to pay for actions, including corrective measures, to remedy spills or contamination by radioactive material resulting from a violation of Chapter 401, Health and Safety Code, relating to an activity under the commission's jurisdiction or a rule adopted or a license, registration, or order issued by the commission under that chapter.

Sec. 7.034. DEFERRAL OF PENALTY FOR CERTAIN UTILITY FACILITIES.

(a) In this section:

(1) "District" means any district or authority created under either Article III, Section 52, or Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution, regardless of how created. The term "district" shall not include any navigation district or port authority created under general or special law or any conservation and reclamation district governed by Chapter 36 unless a special law creating the district or amending the

law creating the district states that Chapter 49 applies to the district.

(2) "Municipally owned utility" and "water supply or sewer service corporation" have the meanings assigned by Section 13.002.

(b) The commission may allow a municipally owned utility, a water supply or sewer service corporation, or a district to defer the payment of all or part of an administrative penalty imposed under Subchapter C for a violation on the condition that the entity complies with all provisions for corrective action in a commission order to address the violation.

(c) In determining whether deferral of a penalty under this section is appropriate, the commission shall consider the factors to be considered under Section 7.053 and the following factors:

(1) the financial position of the entity and its ability to reasonably pay the costs of corrective action under the terms of a commission order;

(2) risks to public health and the environment of any delay in addressing the corrective actions as a result of limited financial resources;

(3) alternatives reasonably available to the entity for paying both the costs of corrective action and the penalty; and

(4) potential effects of the payment of the penalty on other essential public health and safety services for which the entity is responsible.

(d) At the discretion of the commission, any penalty deferred under this section becomes due and payable on a commission determination that the entity is not in compliance with a provision for corrective action in a commission order to address the violation.

SUBCHAPTER C. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

Sec. 7.051. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY.

(a) The commission may assess an administrative penalty against a person as provided by this subchapter if:

(1) the person violates:

(A) a provision of this code or of the Health and Safety Code that is within the commission's jurisdiction;

(B) a rule adopted or order issued by the commission under a statute within the commission's jurisdiction; or

(C) a permit issued by the commission under a statute within the commission's jurisdiction; and

(2) a county, political subdivision, or municipality has not instituted a lawsuit and is not diligently prosecuting that lawsuit under Subchapter H against the same person for the same violation.

(b) This subchapter does not apply to violations of Chapter 11, 12, 13, 16, or 36 of this code, or Chapter 341, Health and Safety Code.

Sec. 7.052. MAXIMUM PENALTY.

(a) The amount of the penalty for a violation of Chapter 37 of this code, Chapter 366, 371, or 372, Health and Safety Code, or Chapter 1903, Occupations Code, may not exceed \$2,500 a day for each violation.

(b) The amount of the penalty for operating a rock crusher or a concrete plant that performs wet batching, dry batching, or central mixing, that is required to obtain a permit under Section 382.0518, Health and Safety Code, and that is operating without the required permit is \$10,000. Each day that a continuing violation occurs is a separate violation.

(b-1) The amount of the penalty assessed against a manufacturer that does not label its computer equipment or covered television equipment or adopt and implement a recovery plan as required by Section 361.955 or 361.977, Health and Safety Code, as applicable, may not exceed \$10,000 for the second violation or \$25,000 for each subsequent violation. A penalty under this subsection is in addition to any other penalty that may be assessed for a violation of Subchapter Y or Z, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code.

(b-2) Except as provided by Subsection (b-1), the amount of the penalty for a violation of Subchapter Y or Z, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, may not exceed \$1,000 for the second violation or \$2,000 for each subsequent violation. A penalty under this subsection is in addition to any other penalty that may be assessed for a violation of Subchapter Y or Z, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code.

(c) The amount of the penalty for all other violations within the jurisdiction of the commission to enforce may not exceed \$10,000 a day for each violation.

(d) Except as provided by Subsection (b), each day that a continuing violation occurs may be considered a separate violation. The commission may authorize an installment payment schedule for an administrative penalty assessed under this subchapter, except for an administrative penalty assessed under Section 7.057.

Sec. 7.0525. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS RELATED TO CERTAIN DRY CLEANING FACILITIES.

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), the amount of the penalty for a

violation of Section 374.252, Health and Safety Code, may not exceed \$5,000.

(b) The amount of the penalty for a violation of Section 374.252(a)(3), Health and Safety Code, may not exceed \$10,000.

(c) In assessing an administrative penalty under this section, the commission shall consider, in addition to the factors prescribed by Section 7.053, the following factors, if applicable:

(1) the extent to which the violation has or may have an adverse effect on the environment; and

(2) the amount of the reasonable costs incurred by this state in detection and investigation of the violation.

Sec. 7.053. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINATION OF PENALTY AMOUNT.

In determining the amount of an administrative penalty, the commission shall consider:

(1) the nature, circumstances, extent, duration, and gravity of the prohibited act, with special emphasis on the impairment of existing water rights or the hazard or potential hazard created to the health or safety of the public;

(2) the impact of the violation on:

(A) air quality in the region;

(B) a receiving stream or underground water reservoir;

(C) instream uses, water quality, aquatic and wildlife habitat, or beneficial freshwater inflows to bays and estuaries; or

(D) affected persons;

(3) with respect to the alleged violator:

(A) the history and extent of previous violations;

(B) the degree of culpability, including whether the violation was attributable to mechanical or electrical failures and whether the violation could have been reasonably anticipated and avoided;

(C) the demonstrated good faith, including actions taken by the alleged violator to rectify the cause of the violation and to compensate affected persons;

- (D) economic benefit gained through the violation; and
 - (E) the amount necessary to deter future violations; and
- (4) any other matters that justice may require.

Sec. 7.054. REPORT OF VIOLATION. If, after examination of a possible violation and the facts surrounding that possible violation, the executive director concludes that a violation has occurred, the executive director may issue a preliminary report in accordance with commission rules that includes recommendations regarding any penalty or corrective action.

Sec. 7.055. NOTICE OF REPORT. Not later than the 10th day after the date on which the report of a violation is issued, the executive director shall give written notice of the report, in accordance with commission rules, to the person charged with the violation.

Sec. 7.056. CONSENT. Not later than the 20th day after the date on which notice is received, the person charged may give to the commission written consent to the executive director's report, including the recommended penalty, or make a written request for a hearing.

Sec. 7.057. DEFAULT. If the person charged with the violation consents to the penalty recommended by the executive director or does not timely respond to the notice, the commission by order shall assess the penalty or order a hearing to be held on the recommendations in the executive director's report. If the commission assesses the penalty, the commission shall give written notice of its decision to the person charged.

Sec. 7.058. HEARING. If the person charged requests or the commission orders a hearing, the commission shall order and shall give notice of the hearing. The commission by order may find that a violation has occurred and may assess a penalty, may find that a violation has occurred but that a penalty should not be assessed, or may find that a violation has not occurred. In making a penalty decision, the commission shall analyze each factor prescribed by Section 7.053. All proceedings under this section are subject to Chapter 2001, Government Code.

Sec. 7.059. NOTICE OF DECISION. The commission shall give notice of its decision to the person charged. If the commission finds that a violation has occurred and assesses a penalty, the commission shall give written notice to the person charged of:

- (1) the commission's findings;
- (2) the amount of the penalty;
- (3) the right to judicial review of the commission's order; and

- (4) other information required by law.

Sec. 7.060. NOTICE OF PENALTY. If the commission is required to give notice of a penalty under Section 7.057 or 7.059, the commission shall publish notice of its decision in the Texas Register not later than the 10th day after the date on which the decision is adopted.

Sec. 7.061. PAYMENT OF PENALTY; PETITION FOR REVIEW. Within the 30-day period immediately following the date on which the commission's order is final, as provided by Section 2001.144, Government Code, the person charged with the penalty shall:

- (1) pay the penalty in full;
- (2) pay the first installment penalty payment in full;
- (3) pay the penalty and file a petition for judicial review, contesting either the amount of the penalty or the fact of the violation or contesting both the fact of the violation and the amount of the penalty; or
- (4) without paying the penalty, file a petition for judicial review contesting the occurrence of the violation and the amount of the penalty.

Sec. 7.062. STAYS. Within the 30-day period described by Section 7.061, a person who acts under Section 7.061(3) may:

- (1) stay enforcement of the penalty by:
 - (A) paying the amount of the penalty to the court for placement in an escrow account; or
 - (B) giving to the court a supersedeas bond that is approved by the court for the amount of the penalty and that is effective until all judicial review of the commission's order is final; or
- (2) request the court to stay enforcement of the penalty by:
 - (A) filing with the court a sworn affidavit of the person stating that the person is financially unable to give the supersedeas bond; and
 - (B) sending a copy of the affidavit to the executive director by certified mail.

Sec. 7.063. CONSENT TO AFFIDAVIT. If the executive director receives a copy of an affidavit under Section 7.062(2), the executive director may file with the court, within five days after the date the copy is received, a contest to the affidavit. The court shall hold a hearing on the facts alleged in the affidavit as soon as practicable and shall stay the enforcement of the penalty on finding

that the alleged facts are true. The person who files an affidavit has the burden of proving that the person is financially unable to pay the penalty or give the supersedeas bond.

Sec. 7.064. JUDICIAL REVIEW. Judicial review of the order or decision of the commission assessing the penalty is under Subchapter G, Chapter 2001, Government Code.

Sec. 7.065. PENALTY REDUCED OR NOT ASSESSED.

(a) If the person paid the penalty and if the penalty is reduced or not assessed by the court, the executive director shall remit to the person charged the appropriate amount plus accrued interest if the penalty has been paid or shall execute a release of the bond if a supersedeas bond has been posted.

(b) The accrued interest on amounts remitted by the executive director under this section shall be paid at a rate equal to the rate charged on loans to depository institutions by the New York Federal Reserve Bank and shall be paid for the period beginning on the date the penalty is paid to the executive director under Section 7.061 and ending on the day the penalty is remitted.

Sec. 7.066. REFERRAL TO ATTORNEY GENERAL. A person who does not comply with Section 7.061 waives the right to judicial review, and the commission or the executive director may refer the matter to the attorney general for enforcement.

Sec. 7.067. SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS.

(a) The commission may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, an administrative penalty imposed under this subchapter. In determining the appropriate amount of a penalty for settlement of an administrative enforcement matter, the commission may consider a respondent's willingness to contribute to supplemental environmental projects that are approved by the commission, giving preference to projects that benefit the community in which the alleged violation occurred. The commission may encourage the cleanup of contaminated property through the use of supplemental environmental projects. The commission may approve a supplemental environmental project with activities in territory of the United Mexican States if the project substantially benefits territory in this state in a manner described by Subsection (b). The commission may not approve a project that is necessary to bring a respondent into compliance with environmental laws, that is necessary to remediate environmental harm caused by the respondent's alleged violation, or that the respondent has already agreed to perform under a preexisting agreement with a governmental agency.

(b) In this section, "supplemental environmental project" means a project

that prevents pollution, reduces the amount of pollutants reaching the environment, enhances the quality of the environment, or contributes to public awareness of environmental matters.

Sec. 7.068. FULL AND COMPLETE SATISFACTION. Payment of an administrative penalty under this subchapter is full and complete satisfaction of the violation for which the penalty is assessed and precludes any other civil or criminal penalty for the same violation.

Sec. 7.069. DISPOSITION OF PENALTY.

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a penalty collected under this subchapter shall be deposited to the credit of the general revenue fund.

(b) A penalty collected under Section 7.052(b-1) or (b-2) shall be paid to the commission and deposited to the credit of the waste management account.

Sec. 7.070. FINDINGS OF FACT NOT REQUIRED; RESERVATIONS. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, the commission is not required to make findings of fact or conclusions of law other than an uncontested finding that the commission has jurisdiction in an agreed order compromising or settling an alleged violation of a statute within the commission's jurisdiction or of a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under such a statute. An agreed administrative order may include a reservation that:

(1) the order is not an admission of a violation of a statute within the commission's jurisdiction or of a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under such a statute;

(2) the occurrence of a violation is in dispute; or

(3) the order is not intended to become a part of a party's or a facility's compliance history.

Sec. 7.071. INADMISSIBILITY. An agreed administrative order issued by the commission under this subchapter is not admissible against a party to that order in a civil proceeding unless the proceeding is brought by the attorney general's office to:

(1) enforce the terms of that order; or

(2) pursue a violation of a statute within the commission's jurisdiction or of a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under such a statute.

Sec. 7.072. RECOVERY OF PENALTY. An administrative penalty owed under this subchapter may be recovered in a civil action brought by the attorney general at the request of the commission.

Sec. 7.073. CORRECTIVE ACTION. If a person violates any statute or rule within the commission's jurisdiction, the commission may:

- (1) assess against the person an administrative penalty under this subchapter; and
- (2) order the person to take corrective action.

Sec. 7.074. HEARING POWERS. The commission may exercise under this subchapter the hearing powers authorized by Section 26.020.

Sec. 7.075. PUBLIC COMMENT.

(a) Before the commission approves an administrative order or proposed agreement to settle an administrative enforcement action initiated under this subchapter to which the commission is a party, the commission shall allow the public to comment in writing on the proposed order or agreement. Notice of the opportunity to comment shall be published in the Texas Register not later than the 30th day before the date on which the public comment period closes.

(b) The commission shall promptly consider any written comments and may withdraw or withhold consent to the proposed order or agreement if the comments disclose facts or considerations that indicate that the consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of this subchapter, another statute within the commission's jurisdiction, or a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under such a statute. Further notice of changes to the proposed order or agreement is not required to be published if those changes arise from comments submitted in response to a previous notice.

(c) This section does not apply to:

- (1) a criminal enforcement proceeding; or
- (2) an emergency order or other emergency relief that is not a final order of the commission.

(d) Chapter 2001, Government Code, does not apply to public comment under this section.

SUBCHAPTER D. CIVIL PENALTIES

Sec. 7.101. VIOLATION. A person may not cause, suffer, allow, or permit a violation of a statute within the commission's jurisdiction or a rule adopted or an order or permit issued under such a statute.

Sec. 7.102. MAXIMUM PENALTY. A person who causes, suffers, allows, or permits a violation of a statute, rule, order, or permit relating to Chapter 37 of

this code, Chapter 366, 371, or 372, Health and Safety Code, Subchapter G, Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, or Chapter 1903, Occupations Code, shall be assessed for each violation a civil penalty not less than \$50 nor greater than \$5,000 for each day of each violation as the court or jury considers proper. A person who causes, suffers, allows, or permits a violation of a statute, rule, order, or permit relating to any other matter within the commission's jurisdiction to enforce, other than violations of Chapter 11, 12, 13, 16, or 36 of this code, or Chapter 341, Health and Safety Code, shall be assessed for each violation a civil penalty not less than \$50 nor greater than \$25,000 for each day of each violation as the court or jury considers proper. Each day of a continuing violation is a separate violation.

Sec. 7.103. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS. If it is shown on a trial of a defendant that the defendant has previously been assessed a civil penalty for a violation of a statute within the commission's jurisdiction or a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under such a statute within the year before the date on which the violation being tried occurred, the defendant shall be assessed a civil penalty not less than \$100 nor greater than \$25,000 for each subsequent day and for each subsequent violation. Each day of a continuing violation is a separate violation.

Sec. 7.104. NO PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO PAY CERTAIN FEES. A civil penalty may not be assessed for failure to:

- (1) pay a fee under Section 371.062, Health and Safety Code; or
- (2) file a report under Section 371.024, Health and Safety Code.

Sec. 7.105. CIVIL SUIT.

(a) On the request of the executive director or the commission, the attorney general shall institute a suit in the name of the state for injunctive relief under Section 7.032, to recover a civil penalty, or for both injunctive relief and a civil penalty.

(b) The commission, through the executive director, shall refer a matter to the attorney general's office for enforcement through civil suit if a person:

- (1) is alleged to be making or to have made an unauthorized discharge of waste into or adjacent to the waters in the state at a new point of discharge without a permit in violation of state law;
- (2) has been the subject of two or more finally issued administrative penalty orders for violations of Chapter 26 occurring at the same wastewater management system or other point of discharge within the two years immediately preceding the date of the first alleged violation currently under investigation at that site;
- (3) is alleged to be operating a new solid waste facility, as defined in

Section 361.003, Health and Safety Code, without a permit in violation of state law;

(4) has been the subject of two or more finally issued administrative penalty orders for violations of Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, occurring at the same facility within the two years immediately preceding the date of the first alleged violation currently under investigation at that site;

(5) is alleged to be constructing or operating a facility at a new plant site without a permit required by Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, in violation of state law; or

(6) has been the subject of two or more finally issued administrative penalty orders for violations of Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, for violations occurring at the same plant site within the two years immediately preceding the date of the first alleged violation currently under investigation at that site.

(c) The suit may be brought in Travis County, in the county in which the defendant resides, or in the county in which the violation or threat of violation occurs.

Sec. 7.106. RESOLUTION THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER. The attorney general's office and the executive director may agree to resolve any violation, before or after referral, by an administrative order issued under Subchapter C by the commission with the approval of the attorney general.

Sec. 7.107. DIVISION OF CIVIL PENALTY. Except in a suit brought for a violation of Chapter 28 of this code or of Chapter 401, Health and Safety Code, a civil penalty recovered in a suit brought under this subchapter by a local government shall be equally divided between:

(1) the state; and

(2) the local government that brought the suit.

Sec. 7.108. ATTORNEY'S FEES. If the state prevails in a suit under this subchapter it may recover reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, and reasonable investigative costs incurred in relation to the proceeding.

Sec. 7.109. PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION.

(a) If it appears that a violation or a threat of violation of Section 26.121 or a rule, permit, or order of the commission has occurred or is occurring that affects aquatic life or wildlife, the Parks and Wildlife Department, in the same manner as the commission under this chapter, may have a suit instituted in a district court for injunctive relief or civil penalties, or both, as authorized by this subchapter, against the person who committed or is

committing or threatening to commit the violation.

(b) In a suit brought under this section for a violation that is the proximate cause of injury to aquatic life or wildlife normally taken for commercial or sport purposes or to species on which this life is directly dependent for food, the Parks and Wildlife Department is entitled to recover damages for the injury. In determining damages, the court may consider the valuation of the injured resources established in rules adopted by the Parks and Wildlife Department under Subchapter D, Chapter 12, Parks and Wildlife Code, or the replacement cost of the injured resources. Any recovery of damages for injury to aquatic life or wildlife shall be deposited to the credit of the game, fish, and water safety account under Section 11.032, Parks and Wildlife Code, and the Parks and Wildlife Department shall use money recovered in a suit brought under this section to replenish or enhance the injured resources.

(c) The actual cost of investigation, reasonable attorney's fees, and reasonable expert witness fees may also be recovered, and those recovered amounts shall be credited to the same operating accounts from which expenditures occurred.

(d) This section does not limit recovery for damages available under other laws.

Sec. 7.110. COMMENTS.

(a) Before the commission approves an agreed final judgment, consent order, voluntary settlement agreement, or other voluntary settlement agreement, or other voluntary agreement that would finally settle a civil enforcement action initiated under this chapter to which the State of Texas is a party or before the court signs a judgment or other agreement settling a judicial enforcement action other than an enforcement action under Section 113 or 120 or Title II of the federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. Section 7401 et seq.), the attorney general shall permit the public to comment in writing on the proposed order, judgment, or other agreement.

(b) Notice of the opportunity to comment shall be published in the Texas Register not later than the 30th day before the date on which the public comment period closes.

(c) The attorney general shall promptly consider any written comments and may withdraw or withhold consent to the proposed order, judgment, or other agreement if the comments disclose facts or considerations that indicate that the consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of this chapter, the statutes within the commission's jurisdiction, or a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under such a statute. Further notice of changes to the proposed order, judgment, or other agreement is not required to be published if those changes arise from comments submitted in response to a previous notice.

(d) The attorney general may not oppose intervention by a person who has standing to intervene as provided by Rule 60, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

(e) This section does not apply to:

(1) criminal enforcement proceedings; or

(2) proposed temporary restraining orders, temporary injunctions, emergency orders, or other emergency relief that is not a final judgment or final order of the court or commission.

(f) Chapter 2001, Government Code, does not apply to public comment under this section.

Sec. 7.111. RECOVERY OF SECURITY FOR CHAPTER 401, HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, VIOLATION. On request by the commission, the attorney general shall file suit to recover security under Section 7.033.

SUBCHAPTER E. CRIMINAL OFFENSES AND PENALTIES

Sec. 7.141. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Appropriate regulatory agency" means the commission, the Texas Department of Health, or any other agency authorized to regulate the handling and disposal of medical waste.

(2) "Corporation" and "association" have the meanings assigned by Section 1.07, Penal Code, except that the terms do not include a government.

(3) "Large quantity generator" means a person who generates more than 50 pounds of medical waste each month.

(4) "Medical waste" includes animal waste, bulk blood and blood products, microbiological waste, pathological waste, sharps, and special waste from health care-related facilities as those terms are defined in 25 T.A.C. Section 1.132 (Texas Department of Health, Definition, Treatment, and Disposition of Special Waste from Health Care-Related Facilities). The term does not include medical waste produced on farmland and ranchland as defined by Section 252.001(6), Agriculture Code.

(5) "Serious bodily injury" has the meaning assigned by Section 1.07, Penal Code.

(6) "Small quantity generator" means a person who generates 50 pounds or less of medical waste each month.

Sec. 7.142. VIOLATIONS RELATING TO UNLAWFUL USE OF STATE WATER.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person violates:

- (1) Section 11.081;
- (2) Section 11.083;
- (3) Section 11.084;
- (4) Section 11.087;
- (5) Section 11.088;
- (6) Section 11.089;
- (7) Section 11.090;
- (8) Section 11.091;
- (9) Section 11.092;
- (10) Section 11.093;
- (11) Section 11.094;
- (12) Section 11.096;
- (13) Section 11.203; or
- (14) Section 11.205.

(b) An offense under Subsection (a)(9), (a)(10), or (a)(14) is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(A) or Section 7.187(2)(B) or both.

(c) An offense under Subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(4), (a)(6), (a)(7), or (a)(8) is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(A) or Section 7.187(2)(C) or both.

(d) An offense under Subsection (a)(3) or (a)(11) is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(A) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both.

(e) An offense under Subsection (a)(5) is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(A) or Section 7.187(2)(E) or both.

(f) Possession of state water when the right to its use has not been acquired according to Chapter 11 is prima facie evidence of a violation of Section 11.081.

(g) Possession or use of water on a person's land by a person not entitled to the water under this code is prima facie evidence of a violation of Section 11.083.

Sec. 7.143. VIOLATION OF MINIMUM STATE STANDARDS OR MODEL POLITICAL SUBDIVISION RULES.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly or intentionally violates a rule adopted under Subchapter J, Chapter 16.

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

Sec. 7.145. INTENTIONAL OR KNOWING UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person, acting intentionally or knowingly with respect to the person's conduct, discharges or allows the discharge of a waste or pollutant:

(1) into or adjacent to water in the state that causes or threatens to cause water pollution unless the waste or pollutant is discharged in strict compliance with all required permits or with an order issued or a rule adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency; or

(2) from a point source in violation of Chapter 26 or of a rule, permit, or order of the appropriate regulatory agency.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(F) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D).

Sec. 7.147. UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person discharges or allows the discharge of any waste or pollutant into any water in the state that causes or threatens to cause water pollution unless the waste or pollutant:

(1) is discharged in strict compliance with all required permits or with a valid and currently effective order issued or rule adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency; or

(2) consists of used oil and the concentration of used oil in the waste stream resulting from the discharge as it enters water in the state is less than 15 parts per million following the discharge and the person is authorized to discharge storm water under a general permit issued under Section 26.040.

(b) An offense under this section may be prosecuted without alleging or proving any culpable mental state.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(B) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both.

(d) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C).

Sec. 7.148. FAILURE TO PROPERLY USE POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly

tampers with, modifies, disables, or fails to use pollution control or monitoring devices, systems, methods, or practices required by Chapter 26 or a rule adopted or a permit or an order issued under Chapter 26 by the commission or one of its predecessor agencies unless done in strict compliance with the rule, permit, or order.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D).

Sec. 7.149. FALSE STATEMENT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly makes or causes to be made a false material statement, representation, or certification in, or omits or causes to be omitted material information from, an application, notice, record, report, plan, or other document, including monitoring device data, filed or required to be maintained by Chapter 26 or by a rule adopted or a permit or an order issued by the appropriate regulatory agency under Chapter 26.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D).

Sec. 7.150. FAILURE TO NOTIFY OR REPORT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly fails to notify or report to the commission as required under Chapter 26 or by a rule adopted or a permit or an order issued by the appropriate regulatory agency under Chapter 26.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D).

Sec. 7.151. FAILURE TO PAY FEE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly fails to pay a fee required by Chapter 26 or by a rule adopted or a permit or an order issued by the appropriate regulatory agency under Chapter 26.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(H) or Section 7.187(2)(B) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(H).

Sec. 7.152. INTENTIONAL OR KNOWING UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE AND KNOWING ENDANGERMENT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person, acting intentionally or knowingly, discharges or allows the discharge of a waste or pollutant into or adjacent to water in the state and by that action knowingly places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, unless the discharge is made in strict compliance with all required permits or with an order issued or rule adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency.

(b) For purposes of Subsection (a), in determining whether a defendant who is an individual knew that the violation placed another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, the defendant is responsible only for the defendant's actual awareness or actual belief possessed. Knowledge possessed by a person other than the defendant may not be attributed to the defendant. To prove a defendant's actual knowledge, circumstantial evidence may be used, including evidence that the defendant took affirmative steps to be shielded from relevant information.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D) or Section 7.187(2)(G) or both. If an offense committed by an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the individual may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(E) or Section 7.187(2)(I) or both.

(d) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E). If an offense committed by a person other than an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the person may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(F).

Sec. 7.153. INTENTIONAL OR KNOWING UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE AND ENDANGERMENT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person, acting intentionally or knowingly with respect to the person's conduct, discharges or allows the discharge of a waste or pollutant into or adjacent to water in the state and by that action places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, unless the discharge is made in strict compliance with all required permits or with a valid and currently effective order issued or rule adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D) or Section 7.187(2)(F) or both. If an offense committed by an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the individual may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(E)

or Section 7.187(2)(G) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E). If an offense committed by a person other than an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the person may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(F).

Sec. 7.154. RECKLESS UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE AND ENDANGERMENT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person, acting recklessly with respect to the person's conduct, discharges or allows the discharge of a waste or pollutant into or adjacent to water in the state and by that action places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, unless the discharge is made in strict compliance with all required permits or with a valid and currently effective order issued or rule adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both. If an offense committed by an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the individual may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(D) or Section 7.187(2)(F) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D). If an offense committed by a person other than an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the person may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(E).

Sec. 7.155. VIOLATION RELATING TO DISCHARGE OR SPILL.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) operates, is in charge of, or is responsible for a facility or vessel that causes a discharge or spill as defined by Section 26.263 and does not report the spill or discharge on discovery; or

(2) knowingly falsifies a record or report concerning the prevention or cleanup of a discharge or spill.

(b) An offense under Subsection (a)(1) is a Class A misdemeanor.

(c) An offense under Subsection (a)(2) is a felony of the third degree.

Sec. 7.156. VIOLATION RELATING TO UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK.

(a) A person or business entity commits an offense if:

(1) the person or business entity engages in the installation, repair, or removal of an underground storage tank and the person or business entity:

(A) does not hold a registration under Section 26.452; and

(B) is not under the substantial control of a person or business entity who holds a registration under Section 26.452;

(2) the person or business entity:

(A) authorizes or allows the installation, repair, or removal of an underground storage tank to be conducted by a person or business entity who does not hold a registration under Section 26.452; or

(B) authorizes or allows the installation, repair, or removal of an underground storage tank to be performed or supervised by a person or business entity who does not hold a license under Section 26.456; or

(3) the conduct of the person or business entity makes the person or business entity responsible for a violation of Subchapter K, Chapter 26, or of a rule adopted or order issued under that subchapter.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person performs or supervises the installation, repair, or removal of an underground storage tank unless:

(1) the person holds a license under Section 26.456; or

(2) another person who holds a license under Section 26.456 is substantially responsible for the performance or supervision of the installation, repair, or removal.

(c) A person commits an offense if the person is an owner or operator of an underground storage tank regulated under Chapter 26 into which any regulated substance is delivered unless the underground storage tank has been issued a valid, current underground storage tank registration and certificate of compliance under Section 26.346.

(d) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 7.1565. PRESUMPTION. If in the exercise of good faith a person depositing or causing to be deposited a regulated substance into an underground storage tank regulated under Chapter 26 receives a certificate of compliance for that underground storage tank under Section 26.346, the receipt of the certificate of compliance shall be considered prima facie evidence of compliance with this section.

Sec. 7.157. VIOLATION RELATING TO INJECTION WELLS.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly or intentionally violates Chapter 27 or a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under Chapter 27.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(B).

Sec. 7.158. VIOLATION RELATING TO PLUGGING WELLS.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person is the owner of a well that is required to be cased or plugged by Chapter 28 and the person:

(1) fails or refuses to case or plug the well within the 30-day period following the date of the commission's order to do so; or

(2) fails to comply with any other order issued by the commission under Chapter 28 within the 30-day period following the date of the order.

(b) An offense under this section is a misdemeanor and is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(A).

Sec. 7.159. VIOLATION RELATING TO WATER WELLS OR DRILLED OR MINED SHAFTS.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly or intentionally violates Chapter 28 or a commission rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under that chapter.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(B).

Sec. 7.160. VIOLATION RELATING TO CERTAIN SUBSURFACE EXCAVATIONS.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly or intentionally violates Chapter 31 or a commission rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under that chapter.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(B).

Sec. 7.161. VIOLATION RELATING TO SOLID WASTE IN ENCLOSED CONTAINERS OR VEHICLES.

(a) An operator of a solid waste facility or a solid waste hauler commits an offense if the operator or hauler disposes of solid waste in a completely enclosed container or vehicle at a solid waste site or operation permitted as a Type IV landfill:

(1) without having in possession the special permit required by Section 361.091, Health and Safety Code;

(2) on a date or time not authorized by the commission; or

(3) without a commission inspector present to verify that the solid waste is free of putrescible, hazardous, and infectious waste.

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

(c) This section does not apply to:

(1) a stationary compactor that is at a specific location and that has an annual permit under Section 361.091, Health and Safety Code, issued by the commission, on certification to the commission by the generator that the contents of the compactor are free of putrescible, hazardous, or infectious waste; or

(2) an enclosed vehicle of a municipality if the vehicle has a permit issued by the commission to transport brush or construction-demolition waste and rubbish on designated dates, on certification by the municipality to the commission that the contents of the vehicle are free of putrescible, hazardous, or infectious waste.

(d) In this section, "putrescible waste" means organic waste, such as garbage, wastewater treatment plant sludge, and grease trap waste, that may:

(1) be decomposed by microorganisms with sufficient rapidity as to cause odors or gases; or

(2) provide food for or attract birds, animals, or disease vectors.

Sec. 7.162. VIOLATIONS RELATING TO HAZARDOUS WASTE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person, acting intentionally or knowingly with respect to the person's conduct:

(1) transports, or causes or allows to be transported, for storage, processing, or disposal, any hazardous waste to any location that does not have all required permits;

(2) stores, processes, exports, or disposes of, or causes to be stored, processed, exported, or disposed of, any hazardous waste without all permits required by the appropriate regulatory agency or in knowing violation of any material condition or requirement of a permit or of an applicable interim status rule or standard;

(3) omits or causes to be omitted material information or makes or

causes to be made any false material statement or representation in any application, label, manifest, record, report, permit, plan, or other document filed, maintained, or used to comply with any requirement of Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, applicable to hazardous waste;

(4) generates, transports, stores, processes, or disposes of, or otherwise handles, or causes to be generated, transported, stored, processed, disposed of, or otherwise handled, hazardous waste, whether the activity took place before or after September 1, 1981, and who knowingly destroys, alters, conceals, or does not file, or causes to be destroyed, altered, concealed, or not filed, any record, application, manifest, report, or other document required to be maintained or filed to comply with the rules of the appropriate regulatory agency adopted under Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code;

(5) transports without a manifest, or causes or allows to be transported without a manifest, any hazardous waste required by rules adopted under Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, to be accompanied by a manifest;

(6) tampers with, modifies, disables, or fails to use required pollution control or monitoring devices, systems, methods, or practices, unless done in strict compliance with Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, or with an order, rule, or permit of the appropriate regulatory agency;

(7) releases, causes, or allows the release of a hazardous waste that causes or threatens to cause pollution, unless the release is made in strict compliance with all required permits or an order, rule, or permit of the appropriate regulatory agency; or

(8) does not notify or report to the appropriate regulatory agency as required by Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, or by a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued by the appropriate regulatory agency under that chapter.

(b) An offense under Subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(B) or Section 7.187(2)(G) or both. An offense under Subsection (a)(3), (a)(4), or (a)(5) is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(B) or Section 7.187(2)(E) or both. An offense under Subsection (a)(6), (a)(7), or (a)(8) is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both.

(c) If it is shown on the trial of an individual that the individual has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, an offense under Subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(G) or both, and an offense under Subsection (a)(3), (a)(4), or (a)(5) is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(F) or both.

(d) An offense under Subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), or (a)(5) is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D). If it is shown on the trial of a person other than an individual that the person previously has been convicted of an offense under Subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), or (a)(5), the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(E). An offense under Subsection (a)(6), (a)(7), or (a)(8) is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D).

Sec. 7.163. VIOLATIONS RELATING TO HAZARDOUS WASTE AND ENDANGERMENT.

(a) A person commits an offense if:

(1) acting intentionally or knowingly, the person transports, processes, stores, exports, or disposes of, or causes to be transported, processed, stored, exported, or disposed of, hazardous waste in violation of Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, and by that action knowingly places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury;

(2) acting intentionally or knowingly with respect to the person's conduct, transports, processes, stores, exports, or disposes of, or causes to be transported, processed, stored, exported, or disposed of, hazardous waste in violation of Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, and by that action places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, unless the conduct charged is done in strict compliance with all required permits or with an order issued or a rule adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency;

(3) acting intentionally or knowingly with respect to the person's conduct, releases or causes or allows the release of a hazardous waste into the environment and by that action places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, unless the release is made in strict compliance with all required permits or an order issued or a rule adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency; or

(4) acting recklessly with respect to the person's conduct, releases or causes or allows the release of a hazardous waste into the environment and by that action places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, unless the release is made in strict compliance with all required permits or an order issued or a rule adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency.

(b) An offense under Subsection (a)(1) is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E) or Section 7.187(2)(H) or both. An offense under Subsection (a)(1) is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(F). If an offense committed by an individual under Subsection (a)(1) results in death or serious bodily injury to another person,

the individual may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(F) or Section 7.187(2)(J) or both. If an offense committed by a person other than an individual under Subsection (a)(1) results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the person may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(G). For purposes of Subsection (a)(1), in determining whether a defendant who is an individual knew that the violation placed another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, the defendant is responsible only for the defendant's actual awareness or actual belief possessed. Knowledge possessed by a person other than the defendant may not be attributed to the defendant. To prove a defendant's actual knowledge, circumstantial evidence may be used, including evidence that the defendant took affirmative steps to be shielded from relevant information.

(c) An offense under Subsection (a)(2) is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D) or Section 7.187(2)(F) or both. An offense under Subsection (a)(2) is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E). If an offense committed under Subsection (a)(2) results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, an individual may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(E) or Section 7.187(2)(G) or both. If an offense committed by a person other than an individual under Subsection (a)(2) results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the person may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(F).

(d) An offense under Subsection (a)(3) is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D) or Section 7.187(2)(F) or both. An offense under Subsection (a)(3) is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E). If an offense committed by an individual under Subsection (a)(3) results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the individual may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(E) or Section 7.187(2)(G) or both. If an offense committed by a person other than an individual under Subsection (a)(3) results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the person may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(F).

(e) An offense under Subsection (a)(4) is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both. An offense under Subsection (a)(4) is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E). If an offense committed by an individual under Subsection (a)(4) results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the individual may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(E) or Section 7.187(2)(E) or both. If an offense committed by a person other than an individual under Subsection (a)(4) results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the person may be punished under Section 7.187(1)(F).

Sec. 7.164. VIOLATIONS RELATING TO MEDICAL WASTE: LARGE GENERATOR.

a) A person commits an offense if the person is a large quantity generator and the person, acting intentionally or knowingly with respect to the person's conduct:

(1) generates, collects, stores, processes, exports, or disposes of, or causes or allows to be generated, collected, stored, processed, exported, or disposed of, any medical waste without all permits required by the appropriate regulatory agency or in knowing violation of a material condition or requirement of a permit or of an applicable interim status rule or standard; or

(2) generates, collects, stores, treats, transports, or disposes of, or causes or allows to be generated, collected, stored, treated, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise handles any medical waste, and knowingly destroys, alters, conceals, or does not file a record, report, manifest, or other document required to be maintained or filed under rules adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(B) or Section 7.187(2)(G) or both. If it is shown on the trial of an individual that the individual has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(I) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(B). If it is shown on the trial of a person other than an individual that the person has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is punishable by Section 7.187(1)(C).

Sec. 7.165. VIOLATIONS RELATING TO MEDICAL WASTE: SMALL GENERATOR.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person is a small quantity generator and the person, acting intentionally or knowingly with respect to the person's conduct:

(1) generates, collects, stores, processes, exports, or disposes of, or causes or allows to be generated, collected, stored, processed, exported, or disposed of, any medical waste without all permits required by the appropriate regulatory agency or in knowing violation of any material condition or requirement of a permit or of an applicable interim status rule or standard; or

(2) generates, collects, stores, treats, transports, or disposes of, or causes or allows to be generated, collected, stored, treated, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise handles any medical waste, and knowingly destroys, alters, conceals, or does not file a record, report, manifest, or other document required to be maintained or filed under rules adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(A). If it is shown on the trial of an individual that the individual

has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(B) or Section 7.187(2)(C) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(B). If it is shown on the trial of a person other than an individual that the person has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(C).

Sec. 7.166. VIOLATIONS RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION OF MEDICAL WASTE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person, acting intentionally or knowingly with respect to the person's conduct:

(1) transports, or causes or allows to be transported, for storage, processing, or disposal, any medical waste to a location that does not have all required permits;

(2) transports without a manifest, or causes or allows to be transported without a manifest, any medical waste required to be accompanied by a manifest under rules adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency; or

(3) operates a vehicle that is transporting medical waste, or that is authorized to transport medical waste, in violation of a rule adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency, including cleaning and safety regulations, that specifically relates to the transportation of medical waste.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(B) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both. If it is shown on the trial of an individual that the individual has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(E) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E). If it is shown on the trial of a person other than an individual that the person has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(F).

Sec. 7.167. FALSE STATEMENTS RELATING TO MEDICAL WASTE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly:

(1) makes a false material statement, or knowingly causes or knowingly allows to be made a false material statement, to a person who

prepares a regulated medical waste label, manifest, application, permit, plan, registration, record, report, or other document required by an order or a rule of the appropriate regulatory agency; or

(2) omits material information, or causes or allows material information to be omitted, from a regulated medical waste label, manifest, application, permit, plan, registration, record, report, or other document required by an order or a rule of the appropriate regulatory agency.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(B) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both. If it is shown on the trial of an individual that the individual has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(E) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(B). If it is shown on the trial of a person other than an individual that the person has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(C).

Sec. 7.168. INTENTIONAL OR KNOWING VIOLATION RELATING TO MEDICAL WASTE AND KNOWING ENDANGERMENT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person, acting intentionally or knowingly, transports, processes, stores, exports, or disposes of, or causes to be transported, processed, stored, exported, or disposed of, medical waste in violation of Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, and by that action knowingly places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E) or Section 7.187(2)(H) or both. If an offense committed by an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the offense is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(F) or Section 7.187(2)(J) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(F). If an offense committed by a person other than an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(G).

Sec. 7.169. INTENTIONAL OR KNOWING VIOLATION RELATING TO MEDICAL WASTE AND ENDANGERMENT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person, acting intentionally or knowingly with respect to the person's conduct, transports, processes,

stores, exports, or disposes of medical waste in violation of Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, and by that action places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, unless the conduct charged is done in strict compliance with all required permits or with an order issued or rule adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D) or Section 7.187(2)(F) or both. If an offense committed by an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the offense is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E) or Section 7.187(2)(G) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E). If an offense committed by a person other than an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(F).

Sec. 7.170. INTENTIONAL OR KNOWING RELEASE OF MEDICAL WASTE INTO ENVIRONMENT AND ENDANGERMENT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person, acting intentionally or knowingly with respect to the person's conduct, releases or causes or allows the release of a medical waste into the environment and by that action places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, unless the release is done in strict compliance with all required permits or an order issued or rule adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D) or Section 7.187(2)(G) or both. If an offense committed by an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the offense is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E) or Section 7.187(2)(G) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E). If an offense committed by a person other than an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(F).

Sec. 7.171. RECKLESS RELEASE OF MEDICAL WASTE INTO ENVIRONMENT AND ENDANGERMENT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person, acting recklessly with respect to a person's conduct, releases or causes or allows the release of a medical waste into the environment and by that action places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, unless the release is made in strict compliance with all required permits or an order is-

sued or rule adopted by the appropriate regulatory agency.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both. If an offense committed by an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the offense is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E) or Section 7.187(2)(E) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E). If an offense committed by a person other than an individual under this section results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(F).

Sec. 7.172. FAILURE OF SEWAGE SYSTEM INSTALLER TO REGISTER.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 366.071, Health and Safety Code.

(b) Except as provided by this subsection, an offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor. If it is shown on the trial of the defendant that the defendant has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(A) or Section 7.187(2)(A) or both.

Sec. 7.173. VIOLATION RELATING TO SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person violates a rule adopted by the commission under Chapter 366, Health and Safety Code, or an order or resolution adopted by an authorized agent under Subchapter C, Chapter 366, Health and Safety Code.

(b) Except as provided by this subsection, an offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor. If it is shown on the trial of the defendant that the defendant has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(A) or Section 7.187(2)(A) or both.

Sec. 7.1735. VIOLATION RELATING TO MAINTENANCE OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly violates an order or resolution adopted by an authorized agent under Section 366.0515, Health and Safety Code.

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

Sec. 7.174. VIOLATION OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM PERMIT PROVISION.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person begins to construct, alter, repair, or extend an on-site sewage disposal system owned by another person before the owner of the system obtains a permit to construct, alter, repair, or extend the on-site sewage disposal system as required by Subchapter D, Chapter 366, Health and Safety Code.

(b) Except as provided by this subsection, an offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor. If it is shown on the trial of the defendant that the defendant has previously been convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(A) or Section 7.187(2)(A) or both.

Sec. 7.175. EMERGENCY REPAIR NOT AN OFFENSE. An emergency repair to an on-site sewage disposal system without a permit in accordance with the rules adopted under Section 366.012(a)(1)(C), Health and Safety Code, is not an offense under Section 7.172, 7.173, or 7.174 if a written statement describing the need for the repair is provided to the commission or its authorized agent not later than 72 hours after the repair is begun.

Sec. 7.176. VIOLATIONS RELATING TO HANDLING OF USED OIL.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) intentionally discharges used oil into:

(A) a sewer or septic tank; or

(B) a drainage system, surface water or groundwater, a water-course, or marine water unless the concentration of used oil in the waste stream resulting from the discharge as it enters water in the state is less than 15 parts per million following the discharge and the person is authorized to discharge storm water under a general permit issued under Section 26.040;

(2) knowingly mixes or commingles used oil with solid waste that is to be disposed of in landfills or directly disposes of used oil on land or in landfills, unless the mixing or commingling of used oil with solid waste that is to be disposed of in landfills is incident to and the unavoidable result of the dismantling or mechanical shredding of motor vehicles, appliances, or other items of scrap, used, or obsolete metals;

(3) knowingly transports, treats, stores, disposes of, recycles, causes to be transported, or otherwise handles any used oil within the state:

(A) in violation of standards or rules for the management of used oil; or

(B) without first complying with the registration requirements of Chapter 371, Health and Safety Code, and rules adopted under

that chapter;

(4) intentionally applies used oil to roads or land for dust suppression, weed abatement, or other similar uses that introduce used oil into the environment;

(5) violates an order of the commission to cease and desist an activity prohibited by this section or a rule applicable to a prohibited activity; or

(6) intentionally makes a false statement or representation in an application, label, manifest, record, report, permit, or other document filed, maintained, or used for purposes of program compliance.

(b) It is an exception to the application of this section that a person unknowingly disposes into the environment any used oil that has not been properly segregated or separated by the generator from other solid wastes.

(c) It is an exception to the application of Subsection (a)(2) that the mixing or commingling of used oil with solid waste that is to be disposed of in landfills is incident to and the unavoidable result of the dismantling or mechanical shredding of motor vehicles, appliances, or other items of scrap, used, or obsolete metals.

(d) Except as provided by this subsection, an offense under this section is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(B) or Section 7.187(2)(F), or both. If it is shown on the trial of the defendant that the defendant has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(H) or both.

Sec. 7.177. VIOLATIONS OF CLEAN AIR ACT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly, with respect to the person's conduct, violates:

(1) Section 382.0518(a), Health and Safety Code;

(2) Section 382.054, Health and Safety Code;

(3) Section 382.056(a), Health and Safety Code;

(4) Section 382.058(a), Health and Safety Code; or

(5) an order, permit, or exemption issued or a rule adopted under Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(B) or Section 7.187(2)(C) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C).

Sec. 7.178. FAILURE TO PAY FEES UNDER CLEAN AIR ACT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly does not pay a fee required by Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, or by a rule adopted or an order issued under that chapter.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(H) or Section 7.187(2)(B) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(H).

Sec. 7.179. FALSE REPRESENTATIONS UNDER CLEAN AIR ACT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly makes or causes to be made a false material statement, representation, or certification in, or omits material information from, or knowingly alters, conceals, or does not file or maintain a notice, application, record, report, plan, or other document required to be filed or maintained by Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, or by a rule adopted or a permit or order issued under that chapter.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D).

Sec. 7.180. FAILURE TO NOTIFY UNDER CLEAN AIR ACT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly does not notify or report to the commission as required by Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, or by a rule adopted or a permit or order issued under that chapter.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D).

Sec. 7.181. IMPROPER USE OF MONITORING DEVICE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly tampers with, modifies, disables, or fails to use a required monitoring device; tampers with, modifies, or disables a monitoring device; or falsifies,

fabricates, or omits data from a monitoring device, unless the act is done in strict compliance with Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, or a permit, variance, or order issued or a rule adopted by the commission.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(C) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D).

Sec. 7.182. RECKLESS EMISSION OF AIR CONTAMINANT AND ENDANGERMENT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person recklessly, with respect to the person's conduct, emits an air contaminant that places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, unless the emission is made in strict compliance with Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, or a permit, variance, or order issued or a rule adopted by the commission.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(D) or Section 7.187(2)(F) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E).

Sec. 7.183. INTENTIONAL OR KNOWING EMISSION OF AIR CONTAMINANT AND KNOWING ENDANGERMENT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly, with respect to the person's conduct, emits an air contaminant with the knowledge that the person is placing another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury unless the emission is made in strict compliance with Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, or a permit, variance, or order issued or a rule adopted by the commission.

(b) An offense under this section is punishable for an individual under Section 7.187(1)(E) or Section 7.187(2)(F) or both.

(c) An offense under this section is punishable for a person other than an individual under Section 7.187(1)(F).

Sec. 7.184. VIOLATIONS RELATING TO LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) intentionally or knowingly violates a provision of Chapter 401, Health and Safety Code, other than the offense described by Subdivision (2); or

(2) intentionally or knowingly receives, processes, concentrates, stores, transports, or disposes of low-level radioactive waste without a license issued under Chapter 401, Health and Safety Code.

(b) Except as provided by this subsection, an offense under Subsection (a)(1) is a Class B misdemeanor. If it is shown on the trial of the person that the person has previously been convicted of an offense under Subsection (a)(1), the offense is a Class A misdemeanor.

(c) Except as provided by this subsection, an offense under Subsection (a)(2) is a Class A misdemeanor. If it is shown on the trial of the person that the person has previously been convicted of an offense under Subsection (a)(2), the offense is punishable under Section 7.187(1)(D) or Section 7.187(2)(D) or both.

Sec. 7.185. KNOWING OR INTENTIONAL UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSAL OF LEAD-ACID BATTERIES.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly or intentionally disposes of a lead-acid battery other than as provided by Section 361.451, Health and Safety Code.

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

Sec. 7.186. SEPARATE OFFENSES. Each day a person engages in conduct proscribed by this subchapter constitutes a separate offense.

Sec. 7.187. PENALTIES.

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a person convicted of an offense under this subchapter is punishable by:

(1) a fine, as imposed under the section creating the offense, of:

- (A) not more than \$1,000;
- (B) not less than \$1,000 or more than \$50,000;
- (C) not less than \$1,000 or more than \$100,000;
- (D) not less than \$1,000 or more than \$250,000;
- (E) not less than \$2,000 or more than \$500,000;
- (F) not less than \$5,000 or more than \$1,000,000;
- (G) not less than \$10,000 or more than \$1,500,000; or
- (H) not more than twice the amount of the required fee;

(2) confinement for a period, as imposed by the section creating the offense, not to exceed:

- (A) 30 days;
- (B) 90 days;
- (C) 180 days;
- (D) one year;
- (E) two years;
- (F) five years;
- (G) 10 years;
- (H) 15 years;
- (I) 20 years; or
- (J) 30 years; or

(3) both fine and confinement, as imposed by the section creating the offense.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 7.177(a)(5), conviction for an offense under Section 382.018, Health and Safety Code, is punishable as:

- (1) a Class C misdemeanor if the waste is not a substance described by Subdivision (3);
- (2) a Class B misdemeanor if the violation is a second or subsequent violation under Subdivision (1);
- (3) a Class A misdemeanor if the violation involves the burning of tires, insulation on electrical wire or cable, treated lumber, plastics, non-wood construction or demolition materials, heavy oils, asphaltic materials, potentially explosive materials, furniture, carpet, chemical wastes, or items containing natural or synthetic rubber.

Sec. 7.188. REPEAT OFFENSES. If it is shown at the trial of the defendant that the defendant has previously been convicted of the same offense under this subchapter, the maximum punishment is doubled with respect to both the fine and confinement, unless the section creating the offense specifies otherwise.

Sec. 7.189. VENUE. Venue for prosecution of an alleged violation under this subchapter is in:

- (1) the county in which the violation is alleged to have occurred;
- (2) the county where the defendant resides;
- (3) if the alleged violation involves the transportation of a discharge, waste, or pollutant, any county to which or through which the discharge, waste, or pollutant was transported; or
- (4) Travis County.

Sec. 7.190. DISPOSITION OF FINES. A fine recovered through a prosecution brought under this subchapter shall be divided equally between the state and any local government significantly involved in prosecuting the case, except that if the court determines that the state or the local government bore significantly more of the burden of prosecuting the case, the court may apportion up to 75 percent of the fine to the government that predominantly prosecuted the case.

Sec. 7.191. NOTICE OF CONVICTION. In addition to a sentence that may be imposed under this subchapter, a person other than an individual that has been adjudged guilty of an offense may be ordered by the court to give notice of the conviction to any person the court considers appropriate.

Sec. 7.192. JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION. On conviction under this subchapter, the clerk of the court in which the conviction is returned shall send a copy of the judgment to the commission.

Sec. 7.193. PEACE OFFICERS. For purposes of this subchapter, the authorized agents and employees of the Parks and Wildlife Department are peace officers. Those agents and employees are empowered to enforce this subchapter the same as any other peace officer and for that purpose have the powers and duties of peace officers assigned by Chapter 2, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Sec. 7.194. ALLEGATIONS. In alleging the name of a defendant private corporation, it is sufficient to state in the complaint, indictment, or information the corporate name or to state any name or designation by which the corporation is known or may be identified. It is not necessary to allege that the defendant was lawfully incorporated.

Sec. 7.195. SUMMONS AND ARREST.

(a) After a complaint is filed or an indictment or information presented against a private corporation under this subchapter, the court or clerk shall issue a summons to the corporation. The summons shall be in the same form as a *capias* except that:

- (1) it shall summon the corporation to appear before the court named at the place stated in the summons;

(2) it shall be accompanied by a certified copy of the complaint, indictment, or information; and

(3) it shall provide that the corporation appear before the court named at or before 10 a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days after it is served with summons, except when service is made on the secretary of state, in which instance the summons shall provide that the corporation appear before the court named at or before 10 a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 30 days after the secretary of state is served with summons.

(b) No individual may be arrested upon a complaint, indictment, or information against a private corporation.

Sec. 7.196. SERVICE OF SUMMONS.

(a) A peace officer shall serve a summons on a private corporation by personally delivering a copy of it to the corporation's registered agent for service. If a registered agent has not been designated or cannot with reasonable diligence be found at the registered office, the peace officer shall serve the summons by personally delivering a copy of it to the president or a vice president of the corporation.

(b) If the peace officer certifies on the return that the peace officer diligently but unsuccessfully attempted to effect service under Subsection (a) or if the corporation is a foreign corporation that has no certificate of authority, the peace officer shall serve the summons on the secretary of state. On receipt of the summons copy, the secretary of state shall immediately forward it by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the defendant corporation at its registered office or, if it is a foreign corporation, at its principal office in the state or country under whose law it was incorporated.

(c) The secretary of state shall keep a permanent record of the date and time of receipt and the disposition of each summons served under Subsection (b) together with the return receipt.

Sec. 7.197. ARRAIGNMENT AND PLEADINGS. In any criminal action instituted against a private corporation under this subchapter:

(1) appearance is for the purpose of arraignment; and

(2) the corporation has 10 full days after the day the arraignment takes place and before the day the trial begins to file written pleadings.

Sec. 7.198. APPEARANCE.

(a) A defendant private corporation appears through counsel or its representative.

(b) If a private corporation does not appear in response to summons or appears but does not plead, the corporation is considered to be present in person for all purposes, and the court shall enter a plea of not guilty on the corporation's behalf and may proceed with trial, judgment, and sentencing.

(c) After appearing and entering a plea in response to summons, if a private corporation is absent without good cause at any time during later proceedings, the corporation is considered to be present in person for all purposes, and the court may proceed with trial, judgment, or sentencing.

Sec. 7.199. FINE TREATED AS JUDGMENT IN CIVIL ACTION. If a person other than an individual is found guilty of a violation of this subchapter and a fine is imposed, the fine shall be entered and docketed by the clerk of the court as a judgment against the person, and the fine shall be of the same force and effect and be enforced against the person in the same manner as if the judgment were recovered in a civil action.

Sec. 7.200. EFFECT ON CERTAIN OTHER LAWS. Conduct punishable as an offense under this subchapter that is also punishable under another law may be prosecuted under either law.

Sec. 7.201. DEFENSE EXCLUDED. It is not a defense to prosecution under this subchapter that the person did not know of or was not aware of a rule, order, or statute.

Sec. 7.202. PROOF OF KNOWLEDGE. In determining whether a defendant who is an individual knew that the violation placed another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury under Section 7.168, 7.169, 7.170, or 7.171, the defendant is responsible only for the defendant's actual awareness or actual belief possessed. Knowledge possessed by a person other than the defendant may not be attributed to the defendant. To prove a defendant's actual knowledge, however, circumstantial evidence may be used, including evidence that the defendant took affirmative steps to be shielded from relevant information.

Sec. 7.203. CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT REVIEW.

(a) This section is applicable to criminal prosecution of alleged environmental violations of this code, of the Health and Safety Code, or of any other statute, rule, order, permit, or other decision of the commission that is within the commission's jurisdiction committed by a defendant holding a permit issued by the commission or a defendant employed by a person holding such a permit and that is related to the activity for which the permit was issued. This section does not apply to an alleged environmental violation that clearly involves imminent danger of death or bodily injury under an endangerment offense specified in Section 7.252. Nothing in this section limits the power of a peace officer to arrest a person for an alleged offense.

(b) Before a peace officer, as that term is defined in Section 7.193 or Chapter 2, Code of Criminal Procedure, may refer any alleged criminal environmental violation by a person holding a permit issued by the commission or an employee of that person of this code, of the Health and Safety Code, or of any other statute, rule, order, permit, or other decision of the commission that is within the commission's jurisdiction to a prosecuting attorney for criminal prosecution, the peace officer shall notify the commission in writing of the alleged criminal environmental violation and include with the notification a report describing the facts and circumstances of the alleged criminal environmental violation. This section does not prohibit a peace officer from issuing a citation or making an arrest.

(c) As soon as practicable and in no event later than the 45th day after receiving a notice and report under Subsection (b), the commission shall evaluate the report and determine whether an alleged environmental violation exists and whether administrative or civil remedies would adequately and appropriately address the alleged environmental violation. In making its evaluation and determination, the commission shall consider the factors prescribed in Section 7.053. If the commission does not make a determination within the 45-day period required by this subsection:

(1) the appropriate prosecuting attorney may bring an action for criminal prosecution; and

(2) notwithstanding Subsection (e), the commission or the state is not entitled to receive any part of an amount recovered through a prosecution brought by that prosecuting attorney.

(d) If the commission determines that an alleged environmental violation exists and that administrative or civil remedies are inadequate or inappropriate to address the violation, the commission shall notify the peace officer in writing of the reasons why administrative or civil remedies are inadequate or inappropriate and recommending criminal prosecution, and the prosecuting attorney may proceed with the criminal prosecution of the alleged violation. In all other cases, the commission shall issue written notification to the peace officer that the alleged environmental violation is to be resolved through administrative or civil means by the appropriate authorities and the reasons why administrative or civil remedies are adequate or appropriate. A prosecuting attorney may not prosecute an alleged violation if the commission determines that administrative or civil remedies are adequate and appropriate.

(e) Any fine, penalty, or settlement recovered through a prosecution subject to this section and brought in the name and by authority of the State of Texas, whether recovered through any form of pretrial resolution, plea agreement, or sentencing after trial, shall be apportioned 70 percent to the state to cover the costs of instituting the procedures and requirements of Subsections (a)-(d) and 30 percent to any local government significantly involved in prosecuting the case. In a case where the procedures de-

scribed in this section do not apply, the provisions of Section 7.190 apply

SUBCHAPTER F. DEFENSES

Sec. 7.251. ACT OF GOD. If a person can establish that an event that would otherwise be a violation of a statute within the commission's jurisdiction or a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under such a statute was caused solely by an act of God, war, strike, riot, or other catastrophe, the event is not a violation of that statute, rule, order, or permit.

Sec. 7.252. DEFENSES TO ENDANGERMENT OFFENSES. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under Section 7.152, 7.153, 7.154, 7.163, 7.168, 7.169, 7.170, 7.171, 7.182, or 7.183 that:

(1) the conduct charged was freely consented to by the person endangered and that the danger and conduct charged were reasonably foreseeable hazards of the person's occupation, business, or profession or a medical treatment or medical or scientific experimentation conducted by professionally approved methods and the person endangered had been made aware of the risks involved before giving consent; or

(2) the person charged was an employee who was carrying out the person's normal activities and was acting under orders from the person's employer, unless the person charged engaged in knowing and wilful violations.

Sec. 7.253. DEFENSES AVAILABLE TO PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR SOLID WASTE VIOLATIONS.

(a) For purposes of an enforcement action initiated under this chapter, a person responsible for solid waste under Section 361.271, Health and Safety Code, is liable for a violation of a statutory or regulatory prohibition against releasing or creating an imminent threat of releasing solid waste unless the person can establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the release or threatened release was caused solely by an act or omission of a third person and that the defendant:

(1) exercised due care concerning the solid waste, considering the characteristics of the solid waste, in light of all relevant facts and circumstances; and

(2) took precautions against foreseeable acts or omissions of the third person and the consequences that could foreseeably result from those acts or omissions.

(b) The defense under Subsection (a) does not apply if the third person:

(1) is an employee or agent of the defendant; or

(2) has a direct or indirect contractual relationship with the defendant and the act or omission of the third person occurred in connection with the contractual relationship. The term "contractual relationship" includes land contracts, deeds, or other instruments transferring title or possession of real property.

(c) A defendant who enters into a contractual relationship as provided by Subsection (b)(2) is not liable under a statute or rule within the commission's jurisdiction if:

(1) the sole contractual relationship is acceptance for rail carriage by a common carrier under a published tariff; or

(2) the defendant acquired the real property on which the facility requiring the remedial action is located after the disposal or placement of the hazardous substance on, in, or at the facility, and the defendant establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that:

(A) the defendant exercised due care concerning the solid waste, considering the characteristics of the solid waste, in light of all relevant facts and circumstances; and

(B) the defendant took precautions against foreseeable acts or omissions of the third person and the consequences that could foreseeably result from those acts or omissions; or

(C) at the time the defendant acquired the facility the defendant did not know and had no reason to know that a hazardous substance that is the subject of the release or threatened release was disposed of on, in, or at the facility;

(D) the defendant is a governmental entity that acquired the facility by escheat, by other involuntary transfer or acquisition, or by the exercise of the power of eminent domain; or

(E) the defendant acquired the facility by inheritance or bequest.

(d) To demonstrate the condition under Subsection (c)(2)(C), the defendant must have made, at the time of acquisition, appropriate inquiry into the previous ownership and uses of the property consistent with good commercial or customary practice in an effort to minimize liability. In deciding whether the defendant meets this condition, the court shall consider:

(1) any specialized knowledge or experience of the defendant;

(2) the relationship of the purchase price to the value of the property if the property were uncontaminated;

(3) commonly known or reasonably ascertainable information about

the property;

(4) the obvious presence or likely presence of contamination of the property; and

(5) the defendant's ability to detect the contamination by appropriate inspection.

(e) This section does not decrease the liability of a previous owner or operator of a facility who is liable under a statute or rule within the commission's jurisdiction. If the defendant obtained actual knowledge of the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance at a facility at the time the defendant owned the real property on which the facility is located and subsequently transferred ownership of the property to another person without disclosing that knowledge, the defendant is liable and a defense under this section is not available to the defendant.

(f) Subsections (c), (d), and (e) do not affect the liability, under a statute or rule within the commission's jurisdiction, of a defendant who, by an act or omission, caused or contributed to the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance that is the subject of the action concerning the facility.

Sec. 7.254. DEFENSE TO USED OIL OFFENSES. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under Section 7.176 that the person unknowingly disposed of used oil into the environment because the used oil had not been properly segregated or separated by the generator from other solid wastes.

Sec. 7.255. DEFENSE EXCLUDED. Unless otherwise provided by this chapter, the fact that a person holds a permit issued by the commission does not relieve that person from liability for the violation of a statute within the commission's jurisdiction or a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under such a statute.

SUBCHAPTER G. REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION OF PERMITS, LICENSES, CERTIFICATES, AND REGISTRATIONS

Sec. 7.301. DEFINITION. In this subchapter:

(1) "License," "certificate," "registration," and "exemption" have the meanings assigned by commission rule.

(2) "Permit holder" or "holder of a permit" includes each member of a partnership or association and, with respect to a corporation, each officer and the owner or owners of a majority of the corporate stock, provided such partner or owner controls at least 20 percent of the permit holder.

Sec. 7.302. GROUNDS FOR REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF PERMIT.

(a) This section applies to a permit or exemption issued by the commission under:

- (1) Chapter 26, 27, 28, or 31 of this code;
- (2) Subchapter C or R, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code;
- (3) Subchapter D, Chapter 366, Health and Safety Code;
- (4) Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code; or
- (5) a rule adopted under any of those provisions.

(b) After notice and hearing, the commission may revoke, suspend, or revoke and reissue a permit or exemption on any of the following grounds:

- (1) violating any term or condition of the permit, and revocation, suspension, or revocation and reissuance is necessary in order to maintain the quality of water or the quality of air in the state, or to otherwise protect human health and the environment consistent with the objectives of the statutes or rules within the commission's jurisdiction;
- (2) having a record of environmental violations in the preceding five years at the permitted or exempted site;
- (3) causing a discharge, release, or emission contravening a pollution control standard set by the commission or contravening the intent of a statute or rule described in Subsection (a);
- (4) including a material mistake in a federal operating permit issued under Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, or making an inaccurate statement in establishing an emissions standard or other term or condition of a federal operating permit;
- (5) misrepresenting or failing to disclose fully all relevant facts in obtaining the permit or misrepresenting to the commission any relevant fact at any time;
- (6) a permit holder being indebted to the state for fees, payment of penalties, or taxes imposed by the statutes or rules within the commission's jurisdiction;
- (7) a permit holder failing to ensure that the management of the permitted facility conforms or will conform to the statutes and rules within the commission's jurisdiction;
- (8) the permit is subject to cancellation or suspension under Section

26.084;

(9) abandoning the permit or operations under the permit; or

(10) the commission finds that a change in conditions requires elimination of the discharge authorized by the permit

Sec. 7.303. GROUNDS FOR REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, OR REGISTRATION.

(a) This section applies to a license, certificate, or registration issued:

(1) by the commission under:

(A) Section 26.0301;

(B) Chapter 37;

(C) Section 361.0861, 361.092, or 361.112, Health and Safety Code;

(D) Chapter 366, 371, or 401, Health and Safety Code; or

(E) Chapter 1903, Occupations Code;

(2) by a county under Subchapter E, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code; or

(3) under a rule adopted under any of those provisions.

(b) After notice and hearing, the commission may suspend or revoke a license, certificate, or registration the commission or a county has issued, place on probation a person whose license, certificate, or registration has been suspended, reprimand the holder of a license, certificate, or registration, or refuse to renew or reissue a license, certificate, or registration on any of the following grounds:

(1) having a record of environmental violations in the preceding five years;

(2) committing fraud or deceit in obtaining the license, certificate, or registration;

(3) demonstrating gross negligence, incompetency, or misconduct while acting as holder of a license, certificate, or registration;

(4) making an intentional misstatement or misrepresentation of fact in information required to be maintained or submitted to the commission by the holder of the license, certificate, or registration;

(5) failing to keep and transmit records as required by a statute within the commission's jurisdiction or a rule adopted under such a statute;

(6) being indebted to the state for a fee, payment of a penalty, or a tax imposed by a statute within the commission's jurisdiction or a rule adopted under such a statute;

(7) with respect to a license or registration issued under Section 26.0301 or Chapter 37, violating a discharge permit of a sewage treatment plant, unless:

(A) the holder of the license or registration is unable to properly operate the sewage treatment or collection facility due to the refusal of the permit holder to authorize necessary expenditures to operate the sewage treatment or collection facility properly; or

(B) failure of the sewage treatment or collection facility to comply with its discharge permit results from faulty design of the facility;

(8) with respect to a license or registration issued under Chapter 37 of this code or Chapter 366, Health and Safety Code, violating either chapter or a rule adopted under either chapter; or

(9) with respect to a license issued under Subchapter E, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, violating that chapter or another applicable law or a commission rule governing the processing, storage, or disposal of solid waste.

Sec. 7.304. SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION OR REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENT ISSUED UNDER WASTE TIRE RECYCLING PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding Sections 7.303, 7.305, and 7.306, the commission may suspend a registration of or reimbursement payment to a waste tire processor, waste tire transporter, waste tire generator, waste tire recycling facility, or waste tire energy recovery facility, without notice or hearing, on the initiation of an enforcement proceeding under this chapter and while the proceeding is pending for a violation of Subchapter P, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, or a rule adopted or order issued under that subchapter.

Sec. 7.305. PROCEDURES. The commission by rule shall establish procedures for public notice and any public hearing under this subchapter. The procedures shall provide for notice to a county that issued a license, certificate, or registration that is the subject of the hearing.

Sec. 7.306. HEARINGS. A hearing under this subchapter shall be conducted in accordance with the hearing rules adopted by the commission and the applicable provisions of Chapter 2001, Government Code.

Sec. 7.307. CONSENT. If the holder of a permit, license, certificate, or registration requests or consents to the revocation or suspension of the permit, li-

cense, certificate, or registration, the executive director may revoke or suspend the permit, license, exemption, certificate, or registration without a hearing.

Sec. 7.308. OTHER RELIEF. A proceeding brought by the commission under this subchapter does not affect the commission's authority to bring suit for injunctive relief or penalty or both under this chapter.

Sec. 7.309. PROBATION REQUIREMENTS. If a license, certificate, or registration suspension is probated, the commission may require the holder of the license, certificate, or registration:

- (1) to report regularly to the commission on matters that are the basis of the probation;
- (2) to limit activities to the areas prescribed by the commission; or
- (3) to continue or renew professional education until the registrant attains a degree of skill satisfactory to the commission in those areas that are the basis of the probation.

Sec. 7.310. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION BY COUNTY. With respect to a license, certificate, or registration issued by a county under a statute or rule within the commission's jurisdiction, the issuing county may suspend or revoke the license, certificate, or registration on the grounds provided under Section 7.303.

SUBCHAPTER H. SUIT BY OTHERS

Sec. 7.351. CIVIL SUITS.

(a) If it appears that a violation or threat of violation of Chapter 16, 26, or 28 of this code, Chapter 361, 371, 372, or 382, Health and Safety Code, a provision of Chapter 401, Health and Safety Code, under the commission's jurisdiction, or Chapter 1903, Occupations Code, or a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under those chapters or provisions has occurred or is occurring in the jurisdiction of a local government, the local government or, in the case of a violation of Chapter 401, Health and Safety Code, a person affected as defined in that chapter, may institute a civil suit under Subchapter D in the same manner as the commission in a district court by its own attorney for the injunctive relief or civil penalty, or both, as authorized by this chapter against the person who committed, is committing, or is threatening to commit the violation.

(b) If it appears that a violation or threat of violation of Chapter 366, Health and Safety Code, under the commission's jurisdiction or a rule adopted or an order or a permit issued under that chapter has occurred or is occurring in the jurisdiction of a local government, an authorized agent as defined in that chapter may institute a civil suit under Subchapter D in the same manner as the commission in a district court by its own attorney for the in-

junctive relief or civil penalty, or both, as authorized by this chapter against the person who committed, is committing, or is threatening to commit the violation.

Sec. 7.352. RESOLUTION REQUIRED. In the case of a violation of Chapter 26 of this code or Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, a local government may not exercise the enforcement power authorized by this subchapter unless its governing body adopts a resolution authorizing the exercise of the power.

Sec. 7.353. COMMISSION NECESSARY PARTY. In a suit brought by a local government under this subchapter, the commission is a necessary and indispensable party.

Sec. 7.354. COSTS AND FEES. A penalty collected in a suit under this subchapter for a violation of Chapter 28 of this code or Chapter 401, Health and Safety Code, shall be paid to the state. If the suit is brought by a local government or, in the case of a violation of Chapter 401, Health and Safety Code, a person affected as defined in that chapter, the court shall include in any final judgment in favor of the local government or affected person an award to cover reasonable costs and attorney's fees.

Sec. 7.355. COMPLAINTS. In the case of a violation of Chapter 401, Health and Safety Code, a local government or person affected may file with the commission a written complaint and may request an investigation of an alleged violation by a person who holds a permit subject to the commission's jurisdiction.

Sec. 7.356. COMMISSION REPLY. The commission shall reply to the local government or person affected who filed a complaint under Section 7.355 in writing not later than the 60th day after the complaint is received and shall provide a copy of any investigation report relevant to the complaint together with a determination of whether the alleged violation was committed.

Sec. 7.357. PROSECUTION. A local government or, in the case of a violation of Chapter 401, Health and Safety Code, a person affected as defined in that chapter may bring suit in the county in which the alleged violation occurred or is about to occur, if the commission does not have a suit filed before the 121st day after the date on which the written complaint is filed under Section 7.355.

Sec. 7.358. OTHER REQUIREMENTS. In the case of a violation of Chapter 1903, Occupations Code, the regulatory authority of any local government may require compliance with any reasonable inspection requirements or ordinances or regulations designed to protect the public water supply and pay any reasonable fees imposed by the local government relating to work performed within its jurisdiction.

TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

30 TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 111(b)
SUBCHAPTER B: OUTDOOR BURNING

Sec. 111.201. General Prohibition.

No person may cause, suffer, allow, or permit any outdoor burning within the State of Texas, except as provided by this subchapter or by orders or permits of the commission. Outdoor disposal or deposition of any material capable of igniting spontaneously, with the exception of the storage of solid fossil fuels, shall not be allowed without written permission of the executive director. The term "executive director," as defined in Chapter 3 of this title (relating to Definitions), includes authorized staff representatives.

Sec. 111.203. Definitions.

Unless specifically defined in the Texas Clean Air Act (TCAA) or in the rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (commission), the terms used by the commission have the meanings commonly ascribed to them in the field of air pollution control. In addition to the terms that are defined by the TCAA, the following terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Extinguished--The absence of any visible flames, glowing coals, or smoke.
- (2) Landclearing operation--The uprooting, cutting, or clearing of vegetation in connection with conversion for the construction of buildings, rights-of-way, residential, commercial, or industrial development, or the clearing of vegetation to enhance property value, access, or production. It does not include the maintenance burning of on-site property wastes such as fallen limbs, branches, or leaves, or other wastes from routine property clean-up activities, nor does it include burning following clearing for ecological restoration.
- (3) Neighborhood--A platted subdivision or property contiguous to and within 300 feet of a platted subdivision.
- (4) Practical alternative--An economically, technologically, ecologically, and logistically viable option.
- (5) Prescribed burn--The controlled application of fire to naturally occurring vegetative fuels under specified environmental conditions and confined to a predetermined area, following appropriate planning and precautionary measures.
- (6) Refuse--Garbage, rubbish, paper, and other decayable and non-decayable waste, including vegetable matter and animal and fish carcasses.

(7) Structure containing sensitive receptor(s)--A man-made structure utilized for human residence or business, the containment of livestock, or the housing of sensitive live vegetation. The term "man-made structure" does not include such things as range fences, roads, bridges, hunting blinds, or facilities used solely for the storage of hay or other livestock feeds. The term "sensitive live vegetation" is defined as vegetation that has potential to be damaged by smoke and heat, examples of which include, but are not limited to, nursery production, mushroom cultivation, pharmaceutical plant production, or laboratory experiments involving plants.

(8) Sunrise/Sunset--Official sunrise/sunset as set forth in the United States Naval Observatory tables available from National Weather Service offices.

(9) Wildland--Uncultivated land other than fallow, land minimally influenced by human activity, and land maintained for biodiversity, wildlife forage production, protective plant cover, or wildlife habitat.

Sec. 111.205. Exception for Fire Training.

(a) Outdoor burning shall be authorized for training fire-fighting personnel when requested in writing and when authorized either verbally or in writing by the local air pollution control agency. In the absence of such local entities, the appropriate commission regional office shall be notified. The burning shall be authorized if notice of denial from the local air pollution control agency, or commission regional office is not received within 10 working days after the date of postmark or the date of personal delivery of the request.

(b) Facilities dedicated solely for fire-fighting training, at which training routinely will be conducted on a frequency of at least once per week, shall submit an annual written notification of intent to continue such training to the appropriate commission regional office and any local air pollution control agency.

(c) Facilities dedicated solely for fire-fighting training, at which training is conducted less than weekly, shall provide an annual written notification of intent, with a telephone or electronic facsimile notice 24 hours in advance of any scheduled training session. No more than one such notification is required for multiple training sessions scheduled within any one-week period, provided the initial telephone/facsimile notice includes all such sessions. Both the written and telephone notifications shall be submitted to the appropriate commission regional office and any local air pollution control agency.

(d) Authorization to conduct outdoor burning under this provision may be revoked by the executive director if the authorization is used to circumvent other prohibitions of this subchapter.

Sec. 111.207. Exception for Fires Used for Recreation, Ceremony, Cooking, and Warmth.

Outdoor burning shall be authorized for fires used solely for recreational or ceremonial purposes, or in the noncommercial preparation of food, or used exclusively for the purpose of supplying warmth during cold weather. Such burning shall be subject to the requirements of Sec. 111.219(7) of this title (relating to General Requirements for Allowable Outdoor Burning).

Sec. 111.209. Exception for Disposal Fires.

Except as provided in Local Government Code, Sec. 352.082, outdoor burning is authorized for the following:

(1) domestic waste burning at a property designed for and used exclusively as a private residence, housing not more than three families, when collection of domestic waste is not provided or authorized by the local governmental entity having jurisdiction, and when the waste is generated only from that property. Provision of waste collection refers to collection at the premises where the waste is generated. The term "domestic waste" is defined in Sec. 101.1 of this title (relating to Definitions). Wastes normally resulting from the function of life within a residence that can be burned include such things as kitchen garbage, untreated lumber, cardboard boxes, packaging (including plastics and rubber), clothing, grass, leaves, and branch trimmings. Examples of wastes not considered domestic waste that cannot be burned, include such things as tires, non-wood construction debris, furniture, carpet, electrical wire, and appliances;

(2) diseased animal carcass burning when burning is the most effective means of controlling the spread of disease;

(3) veterinarians in accordance with Texas Occupations Code, '801.361, Disposal of Animal Remains;

(4) on-site burning of trees, brush, grass, leaves, branch trimmings, or other plant growth, by the owner of the property or any other person authorized by the owner, and when the material is generated only from that property:

(A) in a county that is part of a designated nonattainment area or that contains any part of a municipality that extends into a designated nonattainment area; if the plant growth was generated as a result of right-of-way maintenance, landclearing operations, and maintenance along water canals when no practical alternative to burning exists. Such burning is subject to the requirements of Sec. 111.219 of this title (relating to General Requirements for Allowable Outdoor Burning). Commission notification or approval is not required; or

(B) in a county that is not part of a designated nonattainment area and that does not contain any part of a municipality that extends into

a designated nonattainment area; this provision includes, but is not limited to, the burning of plant growth generated as a result of right-of-way maintenance, landclearing operations, and maintenance along water canals. Such burning is subject to local ordinances that prohibit burning inside the corporate limits of a city or town and that are consistent with the Texas Clean Air Act, Chapter 382, Subchapter E, Authority of Local Governments, and the requirements of Secs. 111.219(3), (4), (6), and (7) of this title. Commission notification or approval is not required.

(5) at a site designated for consolidated burning of waste generated from specific residential properties. A designated site must be located outside of a municipality and within a county with a population of less than 50,000. The owner of the designated site or the owner's authorized agent shall:

(A) post at all entrances to the site a placard measuring a minimum of 48 inches in width and 24 inches in height and containing, at a minimum, the words A DESIGNATED BURN SITE - No burning of any material is allowed except for trees, brush, grass, leaves, branch trimmings, or other plant growth generated from specific residential properties for which this site is designated. All burning must be supervised by a fire department employee. For more information call {PHONE NUMBER OF OWNER OR AUTHORIZED AGENT}.@ The placard(s) must be clearly visible and legible at all times;

(B) designate specific residential properties for consolidated burning at the designated site;

(C) maintain a record of the designated residential properties. The record must contain the description of a platted subdivision and/or a list of each property address. The description must be made available to commission or local air pollution control agency staff within 48 hours, if requested;

(D) ensure that all waste burned at the designated site consists of trees, brush, grass, leaves, branch trimmings, or other plant growth;

(E) ensure that all such waste was generated at specific residential properties for which the site is designated; and

(F) ensure that all burning at the designated site is directly supervised by an employee of a fire department who is part of the fire protection personnel, as defined by Texas Government Code, Sec. 419.021, and is acting in the scope of the person's employment. The fire department employee shall notify the appropriate commission regional office with a telephone or electronic facsimile notice 24 hours in advance of any scheduled supervised burn. The commission shall provide the employee with information on practical alternatives to burning. Commission approval is not required;

(6) crop residue burning for agricultural management purposes when no practical alternative exists. Such burning shall be subject to the requirements of Sec. 111.219 of this title and structures containing sensitive receptors must not be negatively affected by the burn. When possible, notification of the intent to burn should be made to the appropriate commission regional office prior to the proposed burn. Commission notification or approval is not required. This section is not applicable to crop residue burning covered by an administrative order; and

(7) brush, trees, and other plant growth causing a detrimental public health and safety condition burned by a county or municipal government at a site it owns upon receiving site and burn approval from the executive director. Such a burn can only be authorized when there is no practical alternative, and it may be done no more frequently than once every two months. Such burns cannot be conducted at municipal solid waste landfills unless authorized under Sec. 111.215 of this title (relating to Executive Director Approval of Otherwise Prohibited Outdoor Burning), and shall be subject to the requirements of Sec. 111.219 of this title.

Sec. 111.211. Exception for Prescribed Burn.

Outdoor burning shall be authorized for:

(1) Prescribed burning for forest, range and wildland/wildlife management purposes, with the exception of coastal salt-marsh management burning. Such burning shall be subject to the requirements of Sec. 111.219 of this title (relating to General Requirements for Allowable Outdoor Burning), and structures containing sensitive receptors must not be negatively affected by the burn. When possible, notification of intent to burn should be made to the appropriate commission regional office prior to the proposed burn. Commission notification or approval is not required.

(2) Coastal salt-marsh management burning conducted in Aransas, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jefferson, Kleberg, Matagorda, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties. Coastal salt-marsh burning in these counties shall be subject to the following requirements:

(A) All land on which burning is to be conducted shall be registered with the appropriate commission regional office using a United States Geological Survey map or equivalent upon which are identified significant points such as roads, canals, lakes, and streams, and the method by which access is made to the site. For large acreage, the map should be divided into manageable blocks with identification for each defined block. The information must be received for review at least 15 working days before the burning takes place.

(B) Prior to any burning, notification, either verbal or written, must be made to, and authorization must be received from the appropriate

commission regional office. Notification must identify the specific area and/or block to be burned, approximate start and end time, and a responsible party who can be contacted during the burn period.

(C) Such burning shall be subject to the requirements of Sec.111.219 of this title.

Sec. 111.213. Exception for Hydrocarbon Burning.

Outdoor burning shall be authorized for hydrocarbon burning from pipeline breaks and oil spills only upon proper notification as set forth in Sec. 101.6 of this title (relating to Notification Requirements for Major Upset), and if the executive director has determined that the burning is necessary to protect the public welfare. Sampling and monitoring may be required to determine and evaluate environmental impacts.

Sec. 111.215. Executive Director Approval of Otherwise Prohibited Outdoor Burning. If not otherwise authorized by this chapter, outdoor burning may be authorized by written permission from the executive director if there is no practical alternative and if the burning will not cause or contribute to a nuisance, traffic hazard or to a violation of any federal or state primary or secondary ambient air standard. The executive director may specify procedures or methods to control or abate emissions from outdoor burning authorized pursuant to this rule. Authorization to burn may be revoked by the executive director at any time if the burning causes nuisance conditions, is not conducted in accordance with the specified conditions, violates any provision of an applicable permit, or causes a violation of any air quality standard.

Sec. 111.219. General Requirements for Allowable Outdoor Burning.

Outdoor burning which is otherwise authorized shall also be subject to the following requirements when specified in any section of this subchapter.

- (1) Prior to prescribed or controlled burning for forest management purposes, the Texas Forest Service shall be notified.
- (2) Burning must be outside the corporate limits of a city or town except where the incorporated city or town has enacted ordinances which permit burning consistent with the Texas Clean Air Act, Subchapter E, Authority of Local Governments.
- (3) Burning shall be commenced and conducted only when wind direction and other meteorological conditions are such that smoke and other pollutants will not cause adverse effects to any public road, landing strip, navigable water, or off-site structure containing sensitive receptor(s).
- (4) If at any time the burning causes or may tend to cause smoke to blow onto or across a road or highway, it is the responsibility of the person initiating the burn to post flag-persons on affected roads.
- (5) Burning must be conducted downwind of or at least 300 feet (90 me-

ters) from any structure containing sensitive receptors located on adjacent properties unless prior written approval is obtained from the adjacent occupant with possessory control.

(6) Burning shall be conducted in compliance with the following meteorological and timing considerations:

(A) The initiation of burning shall commence no earlier than one hour after sunrise. Burning shall be completed on the same day not later than one hour before sunset, and shall be attended by a responsible party at all times during the active burn phase when the fire is progressing.

In cases where residual fires and/or smoldering objects continue to emit smoke after this time, such areas shall be extinguished if the smoke from these areas has the potential to create a nuisance or traffic hazard condition. In no case shall the extent of the burn area be allowed to increase after this time.

(B) Burning shall not be commenced when surface wind speed is predicted to be less than six miles per hour (mph) (five knots) or greater than 23 mph (20 knots) during the burn period.

(C) Burning shall not be conducted during periods of actual or predicted persistent low-level atmospheric temperature inversions.

(7) Electrical insulation, treated lumber, plastics, non-wood construction/demolition materials, heavy oils, asphaltic materials, potentially explosive materials, chemical wastes, and items containing natural or synthetic rubber must not be burned.

Sec. 111.221. Responsibility for Consequences of Outdoor Burning.

The authority to conduct outdoor burning under this regulation does not exempt or excuse any person responsible from the consequences, damages, or injuries resulting from the burning and does not exempt or excuse anyone from complying with all other applicable laws or ordinances, regulations, and orders of governmental entities having jurisdiction, even though the burning is otherwise conducted in compliance with this regulation.

