

# After-hours/BYOB Clubs

**HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Public Safety Committee / 04.08.2025



# Overview

## Authorities

- International Fire Code (2021)
  - Sections 105.3.3; 109.4; 110.1; 112.1
- City of Houston Building Code
- LSB Standard
  - Pulled directly from Fire Code



# Permits

## Bars v. Clubs

- Bar – occupancy less than 50
  - At least one exit
  - Exit door may open inward
- Club (“Public Assembly”) – 50+
  - Exit door must open outward
- Bars require one exit
- Clubs require more, based on sqft.
  - Determined by HPC



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# Can't we shut them down? No



## 112.4

When in this code an act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful or an offense or misdemeanor, or wherever in this code the doing of any act is required or the failure to do any act is declared to be unlawful, and no specific penalty is provided therefor, the violation of any such provision of this code shall be punished by **a fine of not less than \$500.00, nor more than \$2000.00; provided**, however, that no penalty shall be greater or lesser than the penalty provided for the same offense under the laws of the state. **Each day any violation of this code shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.** In prosecutions under this code, the various provisions hereof that are designated as exceptions shall not be treated as exceptions within the meaning of Section 2.02 of the Texas Penal Code, and instead, they shall constitute defenses to prosecution within the meaning of Section 2.03 of the Texas Penal Code.

## 112.4.1

License suspension/revocation. The suspension, revocation, cancellation or denial of any license, permit or certificate by the jurisdiction shall not prohibit the imposition of any civil or criminal penalty. The imposition of a civil or criminal penalty by the jurisdiction shall not prohibit the suspension, revocation, cancellation or denial of any license, permit or certificate.

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# Can't we shut them down? No



## We do not:

- Shut down businesses
- Issue CoO

## We do:

- Abate the hazard
  - Evacuate to meet occupancy req
  - Disconnect utilities (only to eliminate an immediate fire hazard, ie.exposed electrical wires)
- Inspect businesses
- Respond to complaints of fire code violations
  - Overcrowding
  - Locked exit doors
- Occupancy load checks

**Working outside of our authority is a liability**

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# Questions

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