

**ROCKDALE COUNTY
CONYERS, GEORGIA**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 66 OF PART I, SUBPART A OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF ROCKDALE COUNTY, GEORGIA BY CREATING A NEW SECTION REGARDING THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS, TOBACCO RELATED OBJECTS OR VAPOR PRODUCTS TO PERSONS UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Rockdale County, Georgia, recognizes the significant public health concerns associated with the use of tobacco products, tobacco-related objects, and vapor products by individuals under the age of 21; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that early exposure to nicotine and tobacco products can lead to long term addiction and adverse health effects, thereby impacting the well-being of the community; and

WHEREAS, Rockdale County is committed to protecting its youth from the harmful effects of tobacco and vapor products by prohibiting the sale and furnishing of such products to persons under 21 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Rockdale County acknowledges the legal implications of allowing access to tobacco and vapor products by minors, which can lead to increased healthcare costs and legal liabilities for the community; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of Commissioners of Rockdale County, Georgia to align local ordinances with state and federal regulations to ensure a consistent and enforceable legal framework for the sale and distribution of tobacco and vapor products; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Rockdale County, Georgia seeks to promote a healthier environment for all residents by reducing the availability and use of tobacco and vapor products among minors, thereby fostering a safer and more responsible community; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Rockdale County, Georgia has determined that the adoption of this ordinance is necessary to address these concerns and to promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Rockdale County, Georgia.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that it is the intention of the Board of Commissioners of Rockdale County, Georgia and it hereby is ordained by the authority of same that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Rockdale County, Georgia, and the sections of the code and this ordinance may be renumbered to accomplish that intention, and that Chapter 66 of Part I, Subpart A of the Code of Ordinances of Rockdale County, Georgia, hereby is amended as follows:

Section 1.

Section 66-9 of the Code of Ordinances of the Rockdale County, Georgia is hereby created, as set

forth below.

Section 66-9. Title.

Sale of tobacco products, tobacco related objects or vapor products to persons under 21 years of age

Section 66-9.1. Definitions

Tobacco product means any cigars, little cigars, granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff or snuff powder; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine-cut and other chewing tobaccos; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings, and sweepings of tobacco; and other kinds and forms of tobacco, prepared in such a manner as to be suitable for chewing or smoking in a pipe or otherwise, or both for chewing and smoking. Such term shall not include any alternative nicotine product, vapor product, or product regulated as a drug or device by the United States Food and Drug Administration under Chapter V of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

Tobacco related objects mean any papers, wrappers, or other products, devices, or substances, including cigar wraps, which are used for the purpose of making cigarettes or tobacco products in any form whatsoever.

Vapor product means any noncombustible product containing nicotine that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit, or other electronic, chemical, or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, that can be used to produce vapor or aerosol from nicotine or other substances in a solution or other form. Such term shall include, but shall not be limited to, any electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device and any vapor or aerosol cartridge or other container of nicotine or other substance in a solution or other form, including, but not limited to, a device component, part, or accessory of the device, that is intended to be used with or in an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device. Such term shall not include any product regulated as a drug or device by the United States Food and Drug Administration under Chapter V of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

Section 66-9.2. Prohibitions.

- a) Alcoholic beverage licensees, other establishments, and their agents and employees are prohibited from selling, furnishing, or causing to be furnished, any tobacco products, tobacco related objects or vapor products to persons under 21 years of age.
- b) The prohibition contained in subsection (a) of this section shall not apply when a person under 21 years of age misrepresents their age for the purpose of obtaining tobacco products, tobacco related objects or vapor products and furnishes an identification document issued by a governmental agency, which includes a photograph of the person, and which shows the person's date of birth prior to the date of purchase to be equal to or more than 21 years of age.
- c) The prohibitions contained in this section shall not apply to the furnishing of tobacco products, tobacco related objects or vapor products which are to be used for medical purposes pursuant to a prescription of a physician duly authorized to

practice medicine in this state or which are to be consumed and used at a religious ceremony.

Section 2.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 3.

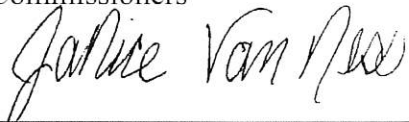
If any section, subsection, provisions, or clause of any part of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional or, if the provisions of any part of this Ordinance as applied to any particular situation or set of circumstances shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not be construed to affect the portions of this Ordinance not so held to be invalid, or the application of this Ordinance to other circumstances not so held to be invalid. It is hereby declared as the intent of the Board of Commissioners of Rockdale County, Georgia that this Ordinance would have been adopted in its current form without the invalid or unconstitutional provision contained therein.

Section 4.

Pursuant to Section 2-32(b) of the Code of Ordinances of Rockdale County, Georgia, the second reading of this Ordinance is hereby waived in order to permit this Ordinance to become effective upon its adoption by the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners.

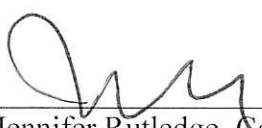
Adopted this 21 day of October, 2025.

Rockdale County, Georgia
Board of Commissioners

By: 
JaNiece Van Ness, Chair & CEO

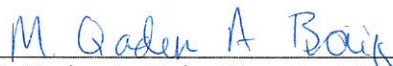
By: 
Tuwanya Smith, Commissioner Post 1

Attest

By: 
Jennifer Rutledge, County Clerk

By: not present
Dr. Doreen Williams, Commissioner Post 2

Approved as to form:

By: 
M. Qader A. Baig, County Attorney