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## LOIS W. KOLKHORST

STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 18

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Senator Kolkhorst Passes SB 1210 to Stop Illegal Gambling Operations in Fort Bend County

AUSTIN - Today, Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst passed SB 1210 relating to the operation of illegal 8-liner machines in Fort Bend County on the Senate floor.

This bill, brought to her by local Fort Bend County officials, gives the Fort Bend County Commissioners' Court the authority to regulate, inspect, license, and penalize illegally operating game rooms that offer cash prizes out of 8-Liner amusement redemption machines, which many believe to be illegal slot machines.

"Last session, the first of these kinds of bills was passed for Harris, Kenedy and Willacy Counties. HB 1127, passed in 2013, gave Harris County the authority to regulate these types of game rooms and as a result, many of these illegal game rooms have migrated to adjacent counties, including Fort Bend County, where the counties do not have regulatory authority," said Kolkhorst. "This bill is about local control and giving law enforcement the tools they need to crack down on those that are operating illegal gaming rooms."

Undercover operations are generally the most common and effective method of shutting down illegal gambling parlors, but operators have been circumventing undercover operations by restricting access to these machines only to members or known referrals. No longer will Fort Bend County need to rely on undercover stings when they can enter the establishment at any time to conduct an inspection or require a license.

"I'm delighted with Senate passage of SB 1210 and I thank Senator Kolkhorst and all those members who've supported the bill. This bill gives Fort Bend County additional regulatory authority to prevent gaming parlors from becoming public nuisances," said Fort Bend County Judge Bob Hebert.

SB 1210 will now move to the House of Representatives where State Representative Rick Miller will carry it.

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