

Gambling and Eight-liners: Separating Fact from Fiction

What are eight-liners?

- Eight-liners are video slot machines that sporadically give out tickets which can be redeemed for merchandise or gift certificates for retail merchandise.

Are eight-liners legal?

- Eight-liners are not *per se* illegal if they are built and operated in compliance with the “fuzzy animal” exception.
- Eight-liners become unlawful when these machines are illegally used to award players cash-related payouts or non-cash payouts far in excess of that allowed by the Texas Penal Code.
- For the most part, eight-liner owners do not *openly* violate the fuzzy animal exception (that is, operate illegal gambling devices). Instead, eight-liners are commonly operated in such a way that the real, illegal payouts are only given out covertly.

What is the “fuzzy animal” exception?

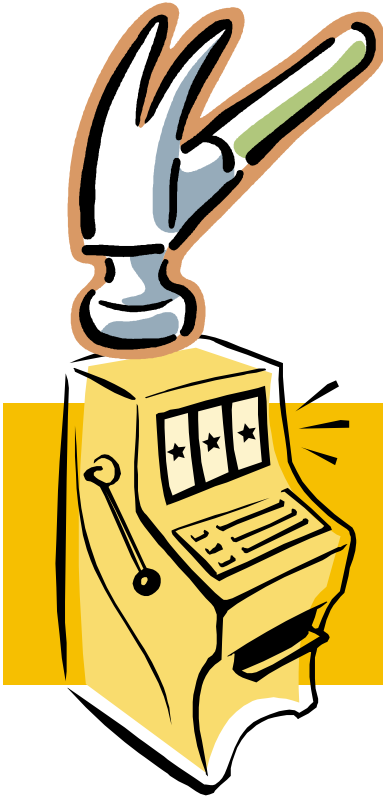
- Passed by the Texas Legislature in 1993, and amended in 1995, the “fuzzy animal” exception allows a machine to award a non-cash prize for play of \$5 value or ten times the cost of play (whichever is less).
- In 1999, Governor Bush formed a Task Force on Illegal Gambling to study the exploitation of the fuzzy animal exception. The Task Force recommended the repeal of the fuzzy animal exception to eradicate eight-liners, but to no avail.

Why repeal the “fuzzy animal” exemption?

- As long as the fuzzy animal exception remains in the books...
 - There is no way for local authorities to prevent the misuse of eight-liners.
 - There is no guarantee that the Legislature will be able to confine gambling to VLT-authorized locations.
- Because this law is violated secretly, law enforcement agencies must conduct expensive, time-consuming, undercover operations in order to build legitimate cases against illegal eight-liner operations – a difficult thing to justify in this period of limited resources.

“I believe that the influx of machines known as eight-liners...is a backhanded attempt to bring casino gambling into the state of Texas.”

-George W. Bush, October 1997



“The single biggest impediment to the successful investigation and prosecution of illegal eight-liner operations is the ambiguous definition of gambling device currently found the Penal Code.

The tens of thousands of illegally-operated eight-liners that exist throughout the state are a testament to the results of the “fuzzy animal” exception and the Legislature’s refusal to close that loophole.

Texas prosecutors stand ready to assist the Legislature in addressing this problem.”

--Texas District & County Attorneys Association

**Bust up illegal eight-liners!!
Repeal the “fuzzy animal” exception!!**

SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION ON GAMBLING IN TEXAS

AMEND THE PLATFORM TO ADD TEETH FOR THE 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**Paid for by Texans Against Gambling
P.O. Box 710217
Dallas, TX 75371-0217**