

ORDINANCE NO. 25-1

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF PINELLAS, PROVIDING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY CODE BE AMENDED BY REVISING CHAPTER 42 OF SAID CODE; PROVIDING FOR REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 42, SECTION 141 RELATED TO THE MINIMUM AGE FOR EMPLOYMENT AT ADULT USE ESTABLISHMENTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AREAS EMBRACED; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, (“BCC”) adopted the comprehensive adult use regulation ordinance to establish reasonable and uniform regulations that will protect the health, safety and general welfare of the people of Pinellas County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County Adult Uses ordinance applies to areas regulated within unincorporated Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, several courts have found that there is a demonstrated link between regulations which raise the minimum age for workers in adult use establishments and curbing the secondary effects of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature recently created Florida Statute 787.30 which sets a minimum age for employment at adult use establishments at 21 years of age effective January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, in order to comply with State Law and in an effort to reduce human trafficking locally, in the best interest of Pinellas County to raise the minimum age for those working in adult use establishments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

SECTION 1. Chapter 42, Article III, Section 42-141 of the Pinellas County Code is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 42-141. - Minors prohibited.

It shall be a violation of this article for an operator of an adult use establishment, regardless of whether it is licensed under this article, to knowingly, or with reason to know, permit, suffer, or allow:

- (1) Admittance to the adult use establishment of a person under 18 years of age;
- (2) A person under 18 years of age to remain at the adult use establishment;
- (3) A person under 18 years of age to purchase goods or services at the adult use establishment; or
- (4) A person to work at the adult use establishment as an employee who is under 21 years of age.

SECTION 2. Severability. If any Section, Subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not be construed to render the remaining provisions of this Ordinance invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 3. Areas Embraced. This Ordinance shall be effective in the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County.

SECTION 4. Inclusion in the Code. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Pinellas County Code and that the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered and the word “ordinance” may be changed to section, article or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intention.

SECTION 5. Filing of Ordinance. Effective Date. Pursuant to Section 125.66 Fla. Stat., a certified copy of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Department of State by the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners within ten (10) days after enactment by the Board of County Commissioners. This Ordinance shall become effective upon filing of the ordinance with the Department of State.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: Cody J. Ward
Office of the County Attorney