

- SUBJECT:** Removing the frequency restrictions on charitable raffles
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Smith, Gutierrez, Geren, Goldman, D. Miller, S. Thompson
- 0 nays
- 3 absent — Guillen, Kuempel, Miles
- WITNESSES:** For — CJ Grisham, Open Carry Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Rick Briscoe, Open Carry Texas)
- BACKGROUND:** Occupations Code, sec. 2002.002 defines “qualified organization” as a qualified religious society, qualified volunteer fire department, qualified volunteer emergency medical service, or qualified nonprofit organization.
- Sec. 2002.052 limits a qualified organization to conducting a maximum of two charitable raffles in a calendar year. Sec. 2002.003(e) specifies that a nonprofit wildlife conservation association, as well as its local chapters, affiliates, wildlife cooperatives or units, each may conduct two charitable raffles each year. Some observers have noted that removing these limitations would give organizations more flexibility to raise money when they need it.
- DIGEST:** HB 2745 would remove the limit on qualified organizations of conducting two raffles per year. It also would remove the two-raffle limit on nonprofit wildlife conservation associations and their local chapters, affiliates, wildlife cooperatives, or units.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.