

SUBJECT: Allowing certain raffle ticket sales through digital media

COMMITTEE: Licensing and Administrative Procedures — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — S. Thompson, Kuempel, Darby, Ellzey, Fierro, Geren, Guillen, Hernandez

0 nays

3 absent — Goldman, Huberty, Pacheco

WITNESSES: For — Karin Morris, Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation

Against — Rob Kohler, Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Dean McWilliams, Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a drop in proceeds from charitable raffles conducted by professional sports teams because such raffles only may be conducted in person. Some have suggested that permitting raffle ticket sales through mobile apps and websites could encourage more individuals to participate in these charity events.

DIGEST: CSHB 2168 would allow raffle tickets for a charitable raffle conducted by a qualified professional sports team charitable foundation to be sold:

- at the home venue of the professional sports team associated with the foundation conducting the raffle; or
- through digital interactive media, including an internet website of or mobile application provided by the professional sports team associated with the foundation conducting the raffle.

Raffle tickets could only be sold to individuals physically located in the state at the time of the sale.

The bill would repeal the offense of accepting any form of payment other than U.S. currency or a debit card for the purchase of a raffle ticket for a charitable event. This repeal would not apply to an offense committed before the bill's effective date.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2021.