

SUBJECT: Establishing application requirements for certain game room personnel

COMMITTEE: Licensing & Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — K. King, Walle, Goldman, Harless, Hernandez, Herrero, T. King, Patterson, Schaefer, Shaheen

0 nays

1 absent — S. Thompson

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Rick Thompson, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that establishing application requirements for game room personnel could assist peace officers in addressing certain illegal activities.

DIGEST: HB 4446 would authorize a county to require a person employed by a game room, in addition to an owner or operator, to obtain a license or permit or renew a license or permit on a periodic basis to be employed by a game room in the county. Under the bill, an application for a license or permit would be required to be made in accordance with certain requirements and with regulations adopted by the county.

A county requiring a person to obtain or renew such a license or permit would have to require the person to submit a completed application for issuance or renewal and the appropriate application fee. The application would have to require certain personal information from the applicant.

A county could not issue or renew a license or permit for an applicant who was previously convicted of a Class B misdemeanor or higher criminal offense and would be required to send a copy of fingerprints obtained

from applicants to the Department of Public Safety for record keeping.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023, and would apply only to a license or permit issued or renewed on or after the effective date of the bill.