

SUBJECT:	Increasing the number of temporary bingo licenses for certain groups
COMMITTEE:	Licensing & Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	7 ayes — K. King, Walle, Goldman, Harless, Hernandez, Patterson, S. Thompson  0 nays  4 absent — Herrero, T. King, Schaefer, Shaheen
WITNESSES:	For — ( <i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : J Pete Laney, State Firefighters' & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas)  Against — None  On — ( <i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : LaDonna Castañuela, Texas Lottery Commission - Charitable Bingo Operations)
DIGEST:	HB 639 would increase the maximum yearly number of temporary bingo licenses that an authorized organization may receive from six to 12. The bill would only apply to organizations that do not hold a regular bingo license.  This bill would take effect September 1, 2023.
SUPPORTERS SAY:	HB 639 would help community organizations raise money by allowing them to hold bingo games more often. Bingo games are a common way for some non-profits and charitable organizations to raise funds. Allowing community groups to hold these events more often will help them to cover operational costs and purchase essential materials. Granting more temporary licenses would not be expected to increase processing costs for the Lottery Commission.
CRITICS SAY:	No concerns identified.