SUBJECT: Allowing the Legislature to authorize charitable raffles at rodeo events

COMMITTEE: Licensing and Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — S. Thompson, Kuempel, Darby, Ellzey, Geren, Goldman, Guillen, Huberty, Pacheco

0 nays

2 absent — Fierro, Hernandez

WITNESSES: For — (Registered, but did not testify: Calvin Tillman)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: The 84th Legislature in 2015 passed and voters approved HJR 73 by Geren and its enabling legislation, HB 975. HJR 73 added to the Texas Constitution Art. 3, sec. 47(d-1), which allows the Legislature by general law to permit the charitable foundation of a professional sports team to conduct charitable raffles under the terms and conditions imposed by general law. Under the law, charitable raffles only can be conducted at games hosted at the home venue of the professional sports team associated with the charitable foundation.

DIGEST: HJR 143 would allow the Legislature by general law to permit the charitable foundation of an organization sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association to conduct charitable raffles at rodeo events.

The ballot proposal would be presented to voters at an election on November 2, 2021, and would read: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the professional sports team charitable foundations of organizations sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association to conduct charitable raffles at rodeo venues.”

SUPPORTERS: HJR 143 would provide the Legislature with the constitutional authority to
allow charitable raffles to take place at rodeo events, in line with its current authority to allow such raffles at other professional sporting events. Following its enactment by the 84th Legislature, HJR 73 by Geren, authorizing charitable raffles at professional sporting events, was put to the voters as Proposition 4 in the election on November 3, 2015, and was approved overwhelmingly. Since the approval of Prop. 4, charitable raffles have raised large amounts of money for worthy causes related to education, cancer research, and youth programs. HJR 143 simply would extend the Legislature’s authority to allow similar charitable raffles to be held at rodeo events.

CRITICS SAY:
No concerns identified.

NOTES:
HB 3012 by Geren, the enabling legislation for HJR 143, is set for second reading consideration today.

According to the Legislative Budget Board, any fiscal implication to the state would be attributable to the corresponding enabling legislation. The cost for publication of the resolution would be $178,333.