

- SUBJECT:** Permitting certain wildlife conservation groups to sell raffle tickets
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Phelan, Thompson, Gerdes, Geren, Harless, Hernandez, Longoria, McQueeney, Patterson, M. Perez, Walle
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Harris, Romero
- WITNESSES:** For — Shane Bonnot, Coastal Conservation Association; Mike Wilson, Ducks Unlimited (*Registered, but did not testify*: Richard Hayes, Gun Owners of America; Bo Stallman, Sheriffs Association of Texas; Joe Morris, Texas Forestry Association; John Shepperd, Texas Foundation for Conservation; Mark Borskey, Texas State Rifle Association; Justin Dreibelbis, Texas Wildlife Association; Bryan Flatt, TMPA; Jason Magdalena)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kirby Brown, Ducks Unlimited)
- BACKGROUND:** Occupations Code sec. 2002.054 prohibits a qualified religious society, qualified volunteer fire department, qualified volunteer emergency medical service, or qualified nonprofit organization from selling or offering to sell tickets for a statewide raffle.
- Some have suggested that permitting wildlife conservation groups to sell raffle tickets would provide greater fundraising opportunities for these conservation groups.
- DIGEST:** HB 1842 would create an exemption under Occupations Code sec. 2002.054 permitting a nonprofit wildlife conservation association, including affiliated groups that were eligible as a qualified nonprofit organization, to use an organization’s website to sell or offer to sell tickets for a raffle to previously identified supporters of the organization. The

website could not provide a graphic or dynamic animation of an entry to a raffle or provide a graphic or dynamic animation of the drawing of raffle tickets.

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, 2025.