

- SUBJECT:** Allowing a charitable raffle ticket to be awarded as a bingo prize
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Kuempel, Frullo, Geren, Goldman, Herrero, Paddie, S. Thompson
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Guillen, Hernandez
- WITNESSES:** For — Will Martin, American Legion Department of Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steve Bresnen, Bingo Interest Group; Angela Hale, Conservative Texans for Charitable Bingo; Tom Stewart, Texas Charity Advocates; Roy Grona, Texas VFW)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Alfonso Royal III; Texas Lottery Commission)
- BACKGROUND:** Texas Attorney General Opinion JC-480 (2002) held that because it was not expressly authorized in either the Bingo Enabling Act (Occupations Code, ch. 2001) or the Charitable Raffle Enabling Act (Occupations Code, ch. 2002), the award of a raffle ticket as a bingo prize did not fall within the defenses to gambling offenses set forth in Penal Code, sec. 47.09.
- Some observers have noted that explicitly allowing charitable raffle tickets to be awarded as bingo prizes would be likely to increase revenue to charitable bingo operations and the charities they support.
- DIGEST:** HB 874 would add a provision to the Bingo Enabling Act allowing a licensed authorized organization to award as a bingo prize a ticket for a charitable raffle conducted under the Charitable Raffle Enabling Act. The bingo prize amount would be the cost to purchase the ticket to enter the

charitable raffle.

This 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, 2017.