

SUBJECT: Specifying safety requirements for a person operating an amusement ride

COMMITTEE: Insurance — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Lucio, Oliverson, S. Davis, Julie Johnson, Lambert, Paul, C.
Turner, Vo

0 nays

1 absent — G. Bonnen

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Lauren Judge, Texas Department of Insurance)

BACKGROUND: Penal Code sec. 49.065 makes it an offense to operate or assemble an amusement ride while intoxicated.

Concerns have been raised over the inadequacy of current law in establishing standards for amusement ride operators and the safe operations of park rides for passengers.

DIGEST: HB 897 would establish requirements and restrictions for an amusement ride attendant, defined in the bill as a person operating an amusement ride

To directly operate a ride, an attendant would be required to be at least 16 years of age and trained in operating the ride. The attendant would be prohibited from operating multiple rides simultaneously and from operating a ride if such operation would constitute an offense under Penal Code sec. 49.065.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.