

SUBJECT: Extending a period during which fireworks may be sold to the public

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Coleman, Anderson, Cason, Longoria, Lopez, Stephenson

3 nays — Stucky, Spiller, J. Turner

WITNESSES: For — Lucas Girdley, Alamo Fireworks; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brad Schlueter, Texas Pyrotechnic Association; Julie Campbell; Stephanie Hoffman; Harold Oliver)

Against — Martin Vela, Brazoria County Fire Marshal's Office; Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Jim Allison, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Steven McDonald, Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office; Laurie Christensen, Harris County Fire Marshal's Office; Rick Bailey, Johnson County; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Daniel Collins, El Paso County; Thamara Narvaez, Harris County Commissioners Court; Martin Vela, Texas Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators; Steven McDonald, Texas Fire Marshals' Association; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court)

BACKGROUND: Occupations Code sec. 2154.202 governs retail fireworks permits. Under this section, a permit holder may sell fireworks only to the public and only during periods:

- beginning June 24 and ending at midnight on July 4;
- beginning December 20 and ending at midnight on January 1 of the following year; and
- beginning May 1 and ending at midnight on May 5 if the fireworks are sold at certain locations.

Some have suggested that turning away customers already waiting in line to purchase fireworks at midnight on July 4 is unfair to both customers

and fireworks sellers.

DIGEST: HB 2569 would extend from midnight on July 4 to midnight on July 5 the period beginning on June 24 during which retail fireworks permit holders could sell fireworks to the public.

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, 2021.