

SUBJECT: Allowing TDLR to establish an anti-trafficking unit

COMMITTEE: Licensing & Administrative Procedures — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — K. King, Walle, Goldman, Harless, Hernandez, Herrero, T. King, Shaheen

2 nays — Patterson, Schaefer

1 absent — S. Thompson

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Doug Davis, Tom Spilman, Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Mary Winston, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that providing clear statutory authority to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to continue its work combating human trafficking would allow the agency to better assist law enforcement in the fight against human trafficking.

DIGEST: CSHB 3772 would allow TDLR to combat human trafficking by:

- establishing an anti-trafficking unit;
- identifying businesses operating within industries regulated by TDLR that are impacted by human trafficking; and
- coordinating with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and any governmental entity engaged in efforts to combat human trafficking.

TDLR could adopt rules to combat human trafficking for any TDLR-regulated program, including rules for conducting inspections and

investigations.

Any information that identified an individual as a victim of human trafficking would be confidential and exempt from disclosure through public information requests. TDLR could withhold information without requesting a decision from the attorney general.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.