

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 1899
By: Longoria
Insurance
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Under current law, a person must be 21 years of age or older to obtain a pyrotechnic operator's license or a public fireworks display permit. However, the bill author has informed the committee that due to the seasonal nature and relatively low pay, these roles are challenging to fill, with local small businesses struggling to find workers interested in these roles, and an age requirement that further shrinks a limited pool of candidates from which these businesses can hire. Further, 18-year-olds are treated as adults in many instances, such as being able to sign for loans, join the military, being convicted of crimes and punished as adults, and purchasing assault rifles. C.S.H.B. 1899 seeks to address this issue by lowering the age requirement for obtaining a pyrotechnic operator's license and a public fireworks display permit from 21 to 18, thereby broadening the pool of candidates for employment.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 1899 amends the Occupations Code to lower the age at which a person may be issued a pyrotechnic operator's license and a public fireworks display permit from 21 years of age to 18 years of age.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2025.

COMPARISON OF INTRODUCED AND SUBSTITUTE

While C.S.H.B. 1899 may differ from the introduced in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following summarizes the substantial differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

The substitute includes a provision absent from the introduced lowering the age at which a person may be issued a pyrotechnic operator's license from 21 years of age to 18 years of age.