

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 996
By: Nichols
Intergovernmental Affairs
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

On July 4, 2026, the United States will celebrate the semiquincentennial anniversary of American Independence Day. Current law only permits Texans to purchase fireworks from June 24 until 11:59 p.m. on July 4. The bill sponsor has informed the committee that, because July 4, 2026, falls on a Saturday, Texans would only be able to purchase fireworks for half of the weekend in accordance with state law. S.B. 996 seeks to address this issue by lengthening the period that fireworks will be available for purchase during the weekend that American Independence Day will be celebrated in 2026.

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

S.B. 996 amends the Occupations Code to authorize a retail fireworks permit holder to sell fireworks only to the public during the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. on July 5, 2026, and ending at 11:59 p.m. on July 5, 2026. This provision expires September 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2025.