

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Licensing & Administrative Procedures  
For HB 2885

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 4:07 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

---

Hearing Date: April 8, 2025 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Sanford Meyerson  
Self, Airport Operations Manager  
Bastrop, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Georgina Bayer  
Clara Inc  
Smithville, TX

The Chronis Family opened La Cabana Restaurant in 1985 and sold it 2012. I tried several times to get "Liquor by the Drink" passed. I am in favor, as this will help Bastrop County to better serve our community.

Caroline Noya  
self  
Smithville, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents. It is pretty much expected from tourists as they visit our rural areas. People from "big cities" come out to the rural areas and expect many of the same services as they receive in their hometown areas. When they are not able to be provided, because of restrictive rules/laws, they leave and go somewhere else. This contributes to a reduction of dollars we are able to collect to help our own economy. This is shameful.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights. It inhibits our ability to capture tourism dollars.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Please feel free to reach out if you need any additional information or support.

Thank you.

Caroline Noya  
Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Smithville, TX

I am writing to express our Board's strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. We believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents. It is pretty much expected from tourists as they visit our rural areas.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights. It inhibits our ability to capture tourism dollars.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Please feel free to reach out if you need any additional information or support.

Thank you.

Jill Strube  
self  
Smithville, TX

Having studied economic development to earn a PhD in Public Administration and having worked and trained in Economic Development for more than 10 years in Smithville, I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Please feel free to reach out if you need any additional information or support.

Linda Ricks  
Self  
Midlothian, TX

Dear Members,

I oppose this bill.

Thank you,  
Kinda Ricks

Kellye Justice  
Self Employed Real Estate  
Waxahachie, TX

I do NOT support this bill.

Daniel Southerland  
Self. Business Owner.  
Red Oak, TX

I oppose this bill!

Vickie Dillow  
Self  
Waxahachie, TX

Do NOT support this bill.

Beverly Gatlin  
Self  
Italy, TX

I absolutely OPPOSE this BILL.

Stephen Zarate  
Self  
Maypearl, TX

I disagree with this bill.

Steve830-4 Schroeder, Mr.

Self

Smithville, TX

I support Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes, as a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

The bill addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election which is restrictive, bordering on impossible in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Michele Wallace, Mrs.

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I am against this bill

Sharon Tryon, Mrs

Self

Waxahachie, TX

Kill this bill. Texas has many issues we need to quit thinking about just give them more alcohol to people that is detrimental to their health and their livelihood.

Lisa Healy

Self

Midlothian, TX

I am against this bill. Please do not vote this out of committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Zarate

Self

Maypearl, TX

I do not support this bill

Sylvia Coulson

self- Dietitian

Waxahachie, TX

I oppose this bill. Keep Sunday free of this.

Carlos Phoenix

Self

Milford, TX

We do not need liquor sold on Sundays.

Jacki Gabryshak  
Self  
Bastrop, TX  
I support HB 2885

Geraldo Rodriguez  
Bastrop River Club  
Bastrop, TX

Letter of Support for HB 2885\*\*

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Please feel free to reach out if you need any additional information or support.

Chris Kirby  
Self  
Bastrop, TX

I write to support HB 2885

Alan Butler  
Self  
Bastrop, TX

Business opportunities shall be equal for all regardless of location in different parts of cities, counties, or unincorporated areas. Private property rights shall not be infringed. Not passing this bill restricts economic growth in our area.

Joseph Loeser, Mr.  
JBL Events  
Bastrop, TX

I am expressing strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. This bill is an important step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights. Thanks for your consideration.

Butch Carmack

Bastrop County Commissioner Pct 1

Bastrop, TX

Letter of Support for HB 2885\*\*

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Please feel free to reach out if you need any additional information or support.

Laura Timmis

Self/Self Employed

Bastrop, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

Dawn Kana

Kana Real Estate LLC

Rosanky, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

?

Jodie Smith

self

Bastrop, TX

This bill would benefit the county by making it easier for restaurants & full-service hotels to thrive here. I support local businesses having the flexibility this bill would allow, when supported by local voters, to work out the business models that's best for them and their customers.

Vivianna Andres

Self

Bastrop, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Cynthia Meyer

Self/business owner

Bastrop, TX

I am a business owner and greatly support this bill!

Aaron Branton

Self

Bastrop, TX

I support this call for a local election and believe such an election has the ability to bring much economic growth to a rapidly growing area of the state.

Darin Bliss

Bastrop River Club

Bastrop, TX

I support the passing of HB 2885. I know it will allow Bastrop County businesses to grow stronger with access to additional revenue streams. In turn helping to improve the county economy as a whole as well.

Gregory Klaus, Bastrop County Judge  
County of Bastrop  
Bastrop, TX

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2885, authored by Representative Stan Gerdes. This bill represents a meaningful opportunity to promote economic growth and strengthen local decision-making authority across Texas.

House Bill 2885 would eliminate the petition requirement currently needed to call a local option election on the sale of alcoholic beverages. For rural counties, in particular, the existing signature threshold creates a disproportionate burden and often prevents communities from even having the opportunity to vote on this issue.

By simplifying the process and allowing communities to place this matter on the ballot without the restrictive petition requirement, HB 2885 affirms the rights of local residents to make decisions that directly impact their economic and community development.

Access to alcoholic beverage licenses is essential for restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries. It levels the playing field for property owners and entrepreneurs and supports business growth in both rural and urban areas.

I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 2885 and move it forward in the legislative process. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to reach out if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Gregory Klaus  
Bastrop County Judge

Elise DiNuzzo  
Self  
Bastrop, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Please feel free to reach out if you need any additional information or support.

Alex Henley  
Self  
Bastrop, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Please feel free to reach out if you need any additional information or support.

Eric Farley  
Self  
Bastrop, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Shasta Lusk  
Cherry Blossoms Day Spa  
Bastrop, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Brenda Fowler

Self

Bastrop, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Meagan Webb

Self, Nonprofit CEO

Bastrop, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents. House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county. It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights. We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Dori Kelley

Bastrop Economic Development Corporation

Bastrop, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

harry broadway, mr.

self

austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

Kasey Ducloux

Self, self-employed

Bastrop, TX

Regarding HB2885

It is essential that rural areas have the ability to control the direction of commerce and all elements of business conducted in their communities. Outdated laws that restrict businesses, specifically small & local businesses, to provide essential results in a loss of ability for members of that community to help maintain the character and integrity of their own town. Not allowing rural towns to sell alcohol results in more incidences of drunk driving, people drinking in unsafe & unregulated environments, and a loss of economic growth that benefits the community as a whole. Small towns need the opportunity to have safe spaces to come together as community and enjoy nightlife in a way that benefits all residents.

Ashley Cook  
SELF  
Smithville, TX

Suggested Letter of Support for HB 2885:

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.  
?

Suggested Letter of Support for HB 2885:

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.  
?

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents. House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county. It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights. we look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local business and entrepreneurship.

Leslie Muller  
Self  
Cedar Creek, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

?

Philip Hurley  
Self  
Bastrop, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Carrie Caylor  
Self  
Bastrop, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Jennifer Lucas  
Self  
BASTROP, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. I believe this bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is essential that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

We look forward to the positive impact this bill will have on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Please feel free to reach out if you need any additional information or support.

Kerry Fossler  
City of Bastrop - City Council Member  
Bastrop, TX

I SUPPORT THIS!!! I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. This bill is a vital step toward economic growth for both businesses and residents.

House Bill 2885 addresses key issues by enabling local communities to decide on the sale of alcoholic beverages without the burden of a petition to call for the election. The number of signatures to place this issue on the local and county ballots is restrictive in a rural county.

It is ESSENTIAL that restaurants, full-service hotels, brewers, and distilleries have access to these licenses, thus ensuring that all property owners are afforded the same rights.

This will have a positive impact on local businesses and entrepreneurship.

PASS IT PLEASE!!!

Tina Butler  
Bastrop River Club  
Bastrop, TX

I am writing in support of HB 2885. I believe that it is crucial to economic growth in Bastrop County.

Ellen Owens  
self / Tax Assessor-Collector Bastrop County  
Smithville, TX

I support passing HB2885, introduced by Representative Stan Gerdes. This bill will help stimulate our economy and economic growth county wide. We are a fast growing County and restrictive laws are hindering the need for speedy responses to the needed restaurants, brewers, distilleries and full service hotels. Thank you for your consideration and I hope that you support our request.