

1-1 By: Taylor S.B. No. 1343
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2021; March 18, 2021, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce;
 1-4 April 19, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8,
 1-5 Nays 0; April 19, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7	X			
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to certain meetings of a commissioners court during a
 1-20 disaster or emergency.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 551, Government Code, is
 1-23 amended by adding Section 551.091 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 551.091. COMMISSIONERS COURTS: DELIBERATION
 1-25 REGARDING DISASTER OR EMERGENCY. (a) This section applies only to
 1-26 the commissioners court of a county:

1-27 (1) for which the governor has issued an executive
 1-28 order or proclamation declaring a state of disaster or a state of
 1-29 emergency; and

1-30 (2) in which transportation to the meeting location is
 1-31 dangerous or difficult as a result of the disaster or emergency.

1-32 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and
 1-33 subject to Subsection (c), a commissioners court to which this
 1-34 section applies may hold an open or closed meeting, including a
 1-35 telephone conference call, solely to deliberate about disaster or
 1-36 emergency conditions and related public safety matters that require
 1-37 an immediate response without complying with the requirements of
 1-38 this chapter, including the requirement to provide notice before
 1-39 the meeting or to first convene in an open meeting.

1-40 (c) To the extent practicable under the circumstances, the
 1-41 commissioners court shall provide reasonable public notice of a
 1-42 meeting under this section and if the meeting is an open meeting
 1-43 allow members of the public and the press to observe the meeting.

1-44 (d) The commissioners court:

1-45 (1) may not vote or take final action on a matter
 1-46 during a meeting under this section; and

1-47 (2) shall prepare and keep minutes or a recording of a
 1-48 meeting under this section and make the minutes or recording
 1-49 available to the public as soon as practicable.

1-50 (e) This section expires September 1, 2027.

1-51 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

1-52 * * * * *