

By: West

S.B. No. 212

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain public meetings and public hearings concerning permits issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter M-1, Chapter 5, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 5.5835 to read as follows:

Sec. 5.5835. LOCATION AND PAYMENT OF COSTS OF PUBLIC MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, if the commission, the executive director, or the applicant for the permit, permit amendment, or permit renewal, under authority authorizing or requiring a public meeting or public hearing to be held in the county in which the facility or proposed facility that is the subject of the meeting or hearing is located or proposed to be located, holds a public meeting or public hearing concerning the issuance, amendment, or renewal of a permit for a facility or proposed facility, the meeting or hearing must be held:

(1) in person; and

(2) at a public location:

(A) not more than one mile from the location or proposed location of the facility or proposed facility; or

(B) if a public location at which the meeting or hearing may be held does not exist within one mile of the location or proposed location, at a public location as near as practicable to and not more than five miles from the location or proposed location

1 of the facility or proposed facility.

2 (b) The applicant for the permit, permit amendment, or  
3 permit renewal shall pay the cost of a public meeting or public  
4 hearing concerning a permit described by this section. The  
5 commission by rule may establish procedures for the payment of  
6 those costs.

7 SECTION 2. Section 5.5835, Water Code, as added by this Act,  
8 applies only to an application for a permit, permit amendment, or  
9 permit renewal submitted on or after the effective date of this Act.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.