

By: Swinford

H.B. No. 8

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to meetings of the Legislative Budget Board conducted through the use of certain telecommunication devices.

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

SECTION 1. Section 322.003, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(d) As an exception to Chapter 551 and other law, if the chairman and vice-chairman of the board are physically present at a meeting, any number of the other members of the board may attend a meeting of the board by use of telephone conference call, video conference call, or other similar telecommunication device. This subsection applies for purposes of constituting a quorum, for purposes of voting, and for any other purpose allowing a member of the board to otherwise fully participate in any meeting of the board. This subsection applies without exception with regard to the subject of the meeting or topics considered by the members.

(e) A meeting held by use of telephone conference call, video conference call, or other similar telecommunication device:

(1) is subject to the notice requirements applicable to other meetings;

(2) must specify in the notice of the meeting the location of the meeting at which the chairman and vice-chairman will be physically present;

(3) must be open to the public and shall be audible to

1 the public at the location specified in the notice of the meeting as
2 the location of the meeting at which the chairman and vice-chairman
3 will be physically present; and

4 (4) must provide two-way audio communication between
5 all members of the board attending the meeting during the entire
6 meeting.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect December 1, 2003. The
8 change in law made by this Act applies in relation to a notice given
9 on or after that date of a meeting of the Legislative Budget Board.