

By: Solis

H.B. No. 683

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to allowing the Texas State Board of Physician Assistant  
3 Examiners to hold telephonic hearings.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 204, Occupations Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 204.105 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 204.105. TELEPHONIC HEARINGS. (a) As an exception to  
8 Chapter 551 and other law, if the presiding officer of the physician  
9 assistant board is physically present at a meeting, then any number  
10 of the other members of the board may attend a meeting of the board  
11 by use of telephone conference call, video conference call, or  
12 other similar telecommunication device. This subsection applies  
13 for purposes of constituting a quorum, for purposes of voting, and  
14 for any other purpose allowing a board member to otherwise fully  
15 participate in any board meeting. This subsection applies without  
16 exception with regard to the subject of the meeting or topics  
17 considered by the members.

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

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

22 (2) must specify in the notice of the meeting the  
23 location of the meeting at which the presiding officer will be  
24 physically present;

1           (3) must be open to the public and audible to the  
2 public at the location specified in the notice of the meeting as the  
3 location of the meeting at which the presiding officer will be  
4 physically present; and

5           (4) must provide two-way audio communication between  
6 all physician assistant board members attending the meeting during  
7 the entire meeting, and if the two-way audio communication link  
8 with any member attending the meeting is disrupted at any time, the  
9 meeting may not continue until the two-way audio communication link  
10 is reestablished.

11           SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
12 to a meeting of the Texas State Board of Physician Assistant  
13 Examiners that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act.

14           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.