

By: Hegar

H.B. No. 2381

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to posting on the Internet the notice of a meeting of the  
3 governing body of a county and certain districts and political  
4 subdivisions.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 551.043, Government Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 551.043. TIME AND ACCESSIBILITY OF NOTICE; GENERAL  
9 RULE. (a) The notice of a meeting of a governmental body must be  
10 posted in a place readily accessible to the general public at all  
11 times for at least 72 hours before the scheduled time of the  
12 meeting, except as provided by Sections 551.044-551.046.

13 (b) If this chapter specifically requires or allows a  
14 governmental body to post notice of a meeting on the Internet, the  
15 governmental body satisfies the requirement that the notice must be  
16 posted in a place readily accessible to the general public at all  
17 times by continuously posting the notice on the Internet during the  
18 prescribed period.

19 SECTION 2. Section 551.049, Government Code, is amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 Sec. 551.049. COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL BODY: PLACE OF POSTING  
22 NOTICE. A county governmental body:

23 (1) shall post notice of each meeting on a bulletin  
24 board at a place convenient to the public in the county courthouse;

1 and

2 (2) may post notice of each meeting on the county's  
3 official Internet website.

4 SECTION 3. Section 551.053, Government Code, is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 551.053. DISTRICT OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION EXTENDING  
7 INTO FOUR OR MORE COUNTIES: NOTICE TO PUBLIC, SECRETARY OF STATE,  
8 AND COUNTY CLERK; PLACE OF POSTING NOTICE. (a) The governing body  
9 of a water district or other district or political subdivision that  
10 extends into four or more counties [~~shall~~]:

11 (1) shall post notice of each meeting at a place  
12 convenient to the public in the administrative office of the  
13 district or political subdivision;

14 (2) may post notice of each meeting on the official  
15 Internet website of the district or political subdivision;

16 (3) shall provide notice of each meeting to the  
17 secretary of state; and

18 (4) shall [~~(3)~~] provide notice of each meeting to the  
19 county clerk of the county in which the administrative office of the  
20 district or political subdivision is located.

21 (b) The secretary of state shall post the notice provided  
22 under Subsection (a)(3) [~~(a)(2)~~] on the Internet. The secretary of  
23 state shall provide during regular office hours a computer terminal  
24 at a place convenient to the public in the office of the secretary  
25 of state that members of the public may use to view the notice.

26 (c) A county clerk:

27 (1) shall post the notice provided under Subsection

1 (a)(4) [~~(a)(3)~~] on a bulletin board at a place convenient to the  
2 public in the county courthouse; and

3 (2) may post each notice provided under Subsection  
4 (a)(4) on the county's official Internet website.

5 SECTION 4. Section 551.054, Government Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 551.054. DISTRICT OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION EXTENDING  
8 INTO FEWER THAN FOUR COUNTIES: NOTICE TO PUBLIC AND COUNTY CLERKS;  
9 PLACE OF POSTING NOTICE. (a) The governing body of a water  
10 district or other district or political subdivision that extends  
11 into fewer than four counties [~~shall~~]:

12 (1) shall post notice of each meeting at a place  
13 convenient to the public in the administrative office of the  
14 district or political subdivision;

15 (2) may post notice of each meeting on the official  
16 Internet website of the district or political subdivision; and

17 (3) shall [~~(2)~~] provide notice of each meeting to the  
18 county clerk of each county in which the district or political  
19 subdivision is located.

20 (b) A county clerk:

21 (1) shall post the notice provided under Subsection  
22 (a)(3) [~~(a)(2)~~] on a bulletin board at a place convenient to the  
23 public in the county courthouse; and

24 (2) may post each notice provided under Subsection  
25 (a)(3) on the county's official Internet website.

26 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.