

By: Deuell

S.B. No. 511

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to public testimony at regular meetings of the governing  
3 board of a general academic teaching institution.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 51.355 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.355. PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT CERTAIN MEETINGS OF  
8 GOVERNING BOARDS OF GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTIONS.

9 (a) In this section, "general academic teaching institution" has  
10 the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

11 (b) The governing board of each general academic teaching  
12 institution or of a university system that includes one or more  
13 component general academic teaching institutions shall adopt a  
14 policy that allows the public to present, for a reasonable amount of  
15 time and for any item on the agenda, both written and oral testimony  
16 at a regular meeting of the board.

17 (c) The governing board shall consider the public testimony  
18 presented to the board on an issue before making a decision on the  
19 issue.

20 SECTION 2. The governing board of each general academic  
21 teaching institution or university system shall adopt the policy  
22 required by Section 51.355, Education Code, as added by this Act,  
23 not later than October 1, 2005.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.