

By: Garcia

H.B. No. 2801

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requiring a record vote by each house or committee of
3 the legislature on bills, proposed constitutional amendments,
4 amendments to bills and proposed constitutional amendments, and
5 certain other actions and to public notice of the record vote.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 301.035 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 301.035. RECORD VOTE ON BILLS AND OTHER MEASURES AND
10 ACTIONS REQUIRED. (a) A vote taken by a house or committee of the
11 legislature must be by record vote if the vote is on:

12 (1) approval or disapproval of a bill, including
13 approval by either house on second or third reading, or an amendment
14 or substitute to a bill;

15 (2) approval or disapproval of a joint resolution
16 proposing or ratifying a constitutional amendment, including
17 approval by either house on second or third reading, or an amendment
18 or substitute to such a joint resolution;

19 (3) the appointment or election of a legislative
20 officer or other public official; or

21 (4) the confirmation of an appointment or nomination
22 to public office.

23 (b) How each member voted on a matter described by
24 Subsection (a) shall be recorded in the journal of the appropriate

1 house or in the minutes of the appropriate committee.

2 (c) The secretary of the senate or chief clerk of the house
3 of representatives, as applicable, shall publish each record vote
4 required by this section, including the vote of each individual
5 member, on the public Internet website maintained by or for the
6 appropriate house in a manner that is easily accessible and
7 searchable by members of the public not later than:

8 (1) one hour after the vote is taken for a record vote
9 of a house of the legislature; and

10 (2) 24 hours after the vote is taken for a record vote
11 of a legislative committee.

12 (d) Each house of the legislature shall maintain on the
13 Internet website information published under Subsection (c) in the
14 manner required by Subsection (c) for at least 10 years after the
15 date the vote is taken.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.